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THE TIMES

The German general who got it all wrong, page 16

'Blissfully happy' Lady Diana to marry Prince of Wales

Months of speculation ended yesterday when Buckingham Palace announced that the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer were engaged to be married. The wedding will almost certainly take place in Westminster Abbey towards the end of July. Lady Diana, who said she was "delighted, thrilled, blissfully happy", will move out of her Kensington flat to an undisclosed address and will give up her job as a kindergarten teacher. The Prince is aged 32 and Lady Diana is aged 19, but the couple yesterday dismissed the age gap as unimportant.

Westminster Abbey wedding in late July is expected

By John Witherow

Buckingham Palace ended months of speculation about the romance between the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer with an announcement yesterday of their engagement to marry.

No date or place has been set for the wedding, but it will almost certainly take place towards the end of July in Westminster Abbey, the traditional setting for such important state occasions and the scene of the coronations of almost all English monarchs since William the Conqueror.

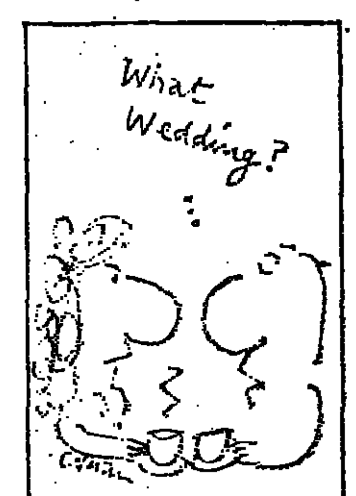
The announcement was made in a brief statement at 11 am: "It is with the greatest pleasure that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh announce the betrothal of their beloved son, the Prince of Wales, to the Lady Diana Spencer, daughter of the Earl Spencer and the Hon Mrs Shand Kydd".

It was read by Lord Maclean, the Lord Chamberlain, to hundreds of people attending an investiture at the Palace. The Queen smiled broadly as the news was greeted with prolonged applause.

The Cabinet was informed of the decision yesterday morning. Members of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister, Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, senior ministers, Commonwealth heads of state and heads of government, and the Archbishop of Canterbury have all been told during the past few days.

Under the Royal Marriages Act, 1772, consent is required under the Great Seal and the Privy Council will meet formally to approve the marriage.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, interrupting a debate on marriage at the General Synod of the Church of England, announced the engagement to sustained aplause.



ON OTHER PAGES

The Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, also offered congratulations to the couple in Parliament.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who said she would convey the congratulations of the Commons at her audience with the Queen last night, said during Commons question time that the engagement brought "great pleasure" to the Government and MPs.

The engagement put an end to the rumours that have surrounded the relationship. It will also relieve Lady Diana of what was sometimes considered harassment by photographers and reporters, pressure that soured relations between Fleet Street and the Palace.

Lord Spencer, Lady Diana's father, said that her "life had been made very difficult" by the constant attentions of the media. "It will be easier now. She will be under some protection, whereas before she had to face the music on her own."

Lady Diana will move out of her flat in Kensington to an address that Buckingham Palace refused to disclose. She will also leave her job as a kindergarten teacher and come under the protection of the Royal Family.

Lord Spencer also disclosed how the Prince of Wales had telephoned him last week to ask his permission. "I wonder what he would have said if I had said no", he said.

In an interview with the BBC, the Prince said he was "positively delighted and frankly amazed that Diana is prepared to take me on". Lady Diana said: "I am absolutely delighted; thrilled; blissfully happy".

The Prince proposed to Lady Diana about three weeks ago at a private dinner at Buckingham Palace before she left for a visit to Australia. The Prince said he wanted to give her time to consider her decision, but she accepted "more or less straight away" and he then gave her a handsome sapphire and diamond ring.

The Prince told the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at Sandringham early this month.

"It has been very difficult sitting on [the news] for the past three weeks, but we have managed it", the Prince said. According to Buckingham Palace, there was no special reason for making the announcement yesterday.



The Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer at Buckingham Palace yesterday.

The couple intend to live at the Prince of Wales's still incompletely furnished country house at Highgrove, Gloucestershire, and to find a suitable home in London. They have not yet decided where to take their honeymoon.

There is a 12-year gap between the couple's ages. The Prince is aged 32 and Lady Diana is aged 19; but they dismissed that as being of no importance.

"It is only 12 years", the Prince said. "Lots of people have got married with that sort of age difference. You are as old as you feel you are. I think Diana will keep me young, apart from anything else ... I shall be exhausted."

Lady Diana, asked how she felt about the future, said she found the prospect daunting, but "with Prince Charles beside me I cannot go wrong".

She believed she would enjoy the enormous amount of travel the couple wil be expected to undertake. "You get used to travel", the Prince said.

Lady Diana will be the first English bride for a future King of England since 1659 when Prince James, later James II, married Anne Hyde, the eldest daughter of the first Earl of Clarendon.

Mr Harold Brooks-Baker, managing director of Debrett, said Lady Diana will bring back Stuart blood to the Royal Family.

"She descends five times from Charles II; four times on the wrong side of the blanket, and one on the right side. Of 26 dukes in England today, five are direct descendants on the wrong side of the blanket of Charles II. Prince Charles does not descend from that King."

The couple may well have met as children at Sandringham, but the first encounter they can recall was in 1977 when the Prince of Wales was invited to shoot at the Spencer home at Althorp, Northamptonshire.

The romance was seen to blossom when Lady Diana visited Balmoral last summer. "We began to realize then that there was something in it", the Prince said.

The announcement was greeted with enthusiasm and delight throughout the country and crowds gathered outside the Palace during the day.

British Steel to get £880m more from state

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

The Government is to inject a further £880m into the effectively bankrupt British Steel Corporation over the next 15 months, and is to take powers which would facilitate the virtual closure of the entire business if the latest "survival plan" fails to achieve its objectives.

In addition to the provision of the additional cash—£150m for the final few weeks of the current financial year ending next month and £730m for next year—the Government is introducing legislation which will, when enacted, write off £3,509m from the corporation's balance sheet.

Announcing this latest taxpayer assistance to the BSC, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, stressed that Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the corporation, considered the plan optimistic (a view he endorsed), and gave warning that failure to meet its objectives would lead to further closures, redundancies, disposals and the virtual dismembering of the business.

"He (Mr MacGregor) has made it clear to the Government and to the managers and workforce of the corporation that there will be no future for any operations that are not competitive", Sir Keith said.

"I must also emphasize that if Mr MacGregor's optimism is not justified, further closures and redundancies may be necessary. The Government will monitor progress closely. Mr MacGregor will give us his assessment in July."

Sir Keith acknowledged that the sums were substantial, but the Government had recognized that the corporation should be given "a last chance" to ease the burden on the taxpayer by becoming profitable. The support was being advanced on condition that BSC behaved responsibly towards the private sector steelmakers.

Many of the independent companies, faced with equally grave problems, have laid allegations of unfair pricing policies at the door of the subsidized BSC which they claim is undermining their fragile existence.

Yesterday's statement boosts the total funds committed by the Government to BSC to £1,851m. If the external finance limit of £700m for 1979-80, which the Government inherited and endorsed after taking office is included, total funds committed over three years will amount to £2,551m.

This is vastly in excess of

Continued on page 3, col 1

Earthquake hits Greece

Athens, Feb 24.—A violent earthquake jolted Athens and most parts of Greece tonight sending panic-stricken people scurrying for safety in city squares and open spaces.

A building in central Athens was said to have collapsed and the electricity supply was cut off in many parts of the city. The main television channel was blacked out. The cities of Patras, Nauplion, Missolonghi, and Larisa were also affected by the earthquake.

Mr Reagan to discuss Soviet summit offer with Western leaders

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Feb 24

President Reagan said today that he would discuss President Brezhnev's suggestion of a summit with Mrs Thatcher and other allied leaders before reaching a decision. He described the proposal as most interesting.

President Brezhnev suggested the summit in his speech to the Soviet Communist Party Congress in Moscow yesterday. Mr Reagan said: "I was most interested in his suggestion and it is something that now we will discuss".

These discussions will take place in the Administration, at the State Department and in Cabinet, with the Allies and "most particolarly" with Mrs Thatcher who is coming to Washington tomorrow and will see the President on Thursday.

Mr Reagan repeated that he was ready to resume negotiations on strategic arms limitation, and added: "I also made it plain, at such a negotiating table, if and when this takes place, there should be other considerations, what has been termed by Mr Brezhnev as linkage."

The considered official view on the proposal remains that it is being studied. The President, and Mr Alexander Haig, Secretary of State, believe that summits are most useful for exchanges of views or for symbolic gestures like signing agreements already reached. They do not think that summits are useful places to conduct serious negotiations.

A summit is therefore unlikely while there are matters of acute disagreement between the two Governments, such as the El Salvador question.

A further difficulty may be the Middle East. A State Department spokesman said yesterday that the main issue in that region was not the Palestinians but the continuing deterioration of the Western position. The highest priority should be to arrest that deteriorating position vis-à-vis the Soviet Union.

Cool Thatcher response : President Brezhnev's call for a summit with President Reagan and his suggestions for renewed East-West arms talks met with a cool and guarded response from Mrs Margaret Thatcher in the House of Commons yesterday (Hugh Noyes writes from Westminster).

With the Prime Minister flying to Washington for her first meeting with the President, Mr Michael Foot, Labour leader and Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, urged her to make a more positive response to Mr Brezhnev's proposals.

But Mrs Thatcher told the House that the best way to improve East-West relations was for the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. She reminded MPs that there were circumstances in which it would suit the Soviet Union to have an arms moratorium when the number of Russian SS20s deployed on the ground was way ahead of anything in the West.

Leading article, page 17

Nearly 10% of labour force out of work

By Melvyn Westlake

Unemployment continues to rise remorselessly with a recorded increase of 78,500 in the underlying level of adult jobless between mid-January and mid-February.

This brings the seasonally adjusted unemployment total to 2.31 million, 9.6 per cent of the labour force.

The crude total, including school leavers and before allowing for seasonal factors, rose by 44,000 to a total of 2.46 million (10.2 per cent of the labour force).

The underlying total has now risen for 17 consecutive months, with more than one million additional people registered as unemployed during that time.

Yesterday's figures drew a chorus of criticism from unions and Labour opposition leaders. Mr Eric Varley, shadow employment secretary accused the "guilty men" of the government of being the architects of policies which had led to the latest unemployment figures.

He said the 2.46 million unemployed were the scapegoats for the failure of Mrs Thatcher's economic policies. "The Government's policies are in ruins. The Prime Minister's authority has been fatally undermined." But the "guilty men" all still had jobs, Mr Varley added.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, described the jobless figures as "appalling by any standards". The whole of the North Sea oil revenues of £4,000m this year were being used to finance the unemployed. "This is the economics of the madhouse," he said. Mr Bruce Millan, shadow Scottish secretary, said the figures for school leavers represented a tragedy of gigantic proportions, and Mr Ken Gill, general secretary of the salaried staffs side of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, called the jobless figures a "staggering waste of the country's resources".

The Confederation of British Industry added that the figures showed the need for the Government to reduce industry's costs in next month's Budget.

The underlying increase of 78,500 was smaller than for other recent months, which have seen rises of more than 100,000. Even so, this latest rise is still high by postwar standards. Moreover, the increase in registered unemployment does not provide a full picture of the contraction in the labour market, because some of the jobless do not register and are therefore not recorded in the figures.

Experience suggests that one unemployed person in three does not register. This means that the true rise in registered and unregistered jobless over the last year and a half could be 1.5 million.

There are however tentative signs that the rate of increase might be slackening. Apart from the fact that the underlying increase this month is less than

Continued on page 21, col 7

Water union backs action

Leaders of the water and sewage industry's second largest union approved industrial action if their employers do not improve their 10 per cent pay offer. The water authority in the north-west area affected by the water workers' first unofficial strike told the public there was no cause for immediate alarm, while in Middlesex five managers at Britain's largest pumping station and treatment plant are preparing to take over the work of 300 men Page 3

Whitehall disruption move

Plans to allow for industrial action in the highest echelons of government departments are being drawn up by the Association of First Division Civil Servants, and rule change proposals will be put to its annual meeting in May. The use of the disruption weapon is regarded as "a last resort" Page 3

Hope for Iran Britons

Three British missionaries are expected to fly home from Iran today, free for the first time in six months; but their immediate return is thrown into doubt by last-minute equivocation by the Iranian Revolutionary Prosecutor-General. The missionaries are expected to board a flight to Istanbul, Frankfurt and Paris at 9am GMT Page 6

Polish pledge to Russia

Mr Stanislaw Kania, the Polish Communist Party leader, assured the Soviet Communist Party congress in Moscow that the Polish Communists had the strength and determination to resolve the country's current crisis Page 6

Hiroshima holocaust recalled by Pope

Speaking at an open-air Mass in Tokyo, the Pope said that the name Hiroshima should become an international symbol for peace. Recalling the holocaust of the first atomic bomb, the Pontiff said that the words of Christ, "Peace be with you", must become a challenge and "re-echo all the horrors of the final warning". Earlier, the Pope met Emperor Hirohito Page 7

67-nation wildlife talks

Sixty-seven countries and more than 100 wildlife organizations are represented in Delhi at the third conference of signatories to the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora. The conference will discuss proposals to extend laws or strict controls on animal and plant hunting or collecting Page 6

Shares fraud alleged

A fraud was concocted when the price of shares of the apparently booming London and Counties Securities began to fall, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told. It was alleged that the fraud, using £5m belonging to a subsidiary, was thought up after a schema to "rig" share prices failed Page 3

Water charge cut: Thames Water Authority has reduced its charges by 1.5 per cent after cutting £14.7m off its budget ... 4

Republic of Ireland: A *Special Report* on relations with Britain and the rest of Europe 13-15

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 30, 32; La crème de la crème, 26, 27; Appointments, 30; Courses, 28, 29; Residential property, 29

Wide praise for King Juan Carlos after rebel troops surrender

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Feb 24

What King Juan Carlos called in the critical hours early today "these extraordinary circumstances" ended for Spain with the surrender just after midday of Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero Molina.

Colonel Tejero Molina was the leader of an assault on Parliament — by about 200 armed civil guards — which had started 18 hours before.

Tonight Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch, who is considered to be the main figure behind yesterday's failed putsch, was summoned to Madrid and is thought to have been dismissed from his command, which is based on the Valencia military region.

The 65-year-old general, whose military career began on Franco's side in the Spanish Civil War, was repeatedly telephoned during the rebellion by Colonel Tejero Molina. Their telephone conversations are believed to have been taped.

Earlier nearly 350 MPs, almost the entire membership of the Lower House, emerged to freedom. "Long live democracy", Señor Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, the haggard and unshaven Minister of Justice, shouted as he made his way on foot — shaking outstretched hands—to the Palace Hotel, facing the Cortes (Parliament).

It was at this hotel that senior officers and General Alfaro Armada, the Deputy Chief of the Army General Staff, had negotiated for the surrender of the rebel civil guards long after the attempted coup had clearly failed.

Before the MPs emerged en masse, civil guards had been seen jumping out of a window at the Cortes—some of them still carrying their arms and being hustled away to waiting police coaches.

Before the MPs filed out of the chamber, Señor Landelino Lavilla, the Speaker, who had been directly threatened by Colonel Tejero Molina yesterday punctiliously reestablished parliamentary authority by announcing a plenary session would be held "as usual" tomorrow afternoon.

Among the business interrupted yesterday was the election of Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo as the country's new Prime Minister. After the impact of yesterday's attempted coup, the Catalan Regional Party has said it would now vote "yes" to Señor Calvo Sotelo's nomination—instead of abstaining as it had planned to. This will effectively give the candidate an absolute majority.

The first thing that the freed Cabinet members did was to assemble in the Ministry of the Interior offices, where their deputies had through the night instituted an emergency government to uphold civilian authority.

As the MPs staged impromptu press conferences near the Cortes, it became clear that Señor Manuel Fraga, the former Interior Minister, had played an important part in demoralizing the rebel troops.

Shouting: "I want to get out of here, this is an attack on democracy", the former Spanish Ambassador to Britain, had refused to obey Colonel Tejero Molina's demand to sit down and shut up.

Other MPs had shouted "democracy, democracy" and had held up copies of the constitution. Señor Fraga was eventually roughly led away.

MPs from several parties were outspoken in their praise of the crucial role that the King played last night. They underlined how he had immediately summoned the Joint Chiefs of Staff into session on hearing that an illegal state of emergency had been declared.

The King had also called upon deputies for the coralled ministers in the Cortes to set up an emergency government machinery.

As one Socialist MP told The Times: "For many generations we have not identified Spain's monarchy with the fate of liberty. Yet when you see liberty in danger as we all thought it was deeply last night and you then look to the King for a way to save it, that's a very positive fact for Spain's democracy all round".

Many other MPs emphasized how they suspected when the civil guards suddenly entered the chamber that it was a full-scale military coup. Their kidnappers kept them isolated from outside communications and only read them the communiqué announcing the takeover of civilian authority.

Later a transistor was smuggled in and MPs were also able to catch glimpses of the special editions published by Madrid's two leading newspapers. Their headlines revealed that not all was going well for the rebel leaders.

Copies of the extreme right El Alcazar newspaper were seized by the police early today, apparently because the newspaper was suspected of publishing statements sympathetic to the rebel cause.

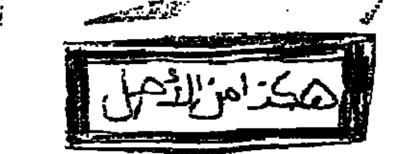
King Juan Carlos, who has summoned a meeting of the Spanish Defence Council, had earlier today sent messages to all his regional commanders, expressing his satisfaction over how the troops had behaved.

Many hours of negotiation were required before the rebel right-wing colonel agreed to surrender his arms. He insisted on doing so with a flourish.

He demanded that he should be allowed to surrender at the Pardo, the disused palace from which Franco had ruled Spain for almost 40 years. In fact the colonel was taken to the Madrid civil guard headquarters and detained along with the men he had commanded.

Ringleader's quote: Colonel Tejero Molina told MPs as they were released: "Go. Don't worry. The only thing happening here is that I'm going to land 30 or 40 years in jail."
—UPI.

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Spain keeps its dignity, page 16



ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

General Synod offers its congratulations on royal engagement

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The General Synod of the Church of England was in the happy position of being the first to offer its congratulations to the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer when the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, interrupted the proceedings yesterday within a few minutes of the official announcement to break the news.

Members applauded loudly when he said: "I am sure the synod will want to express its happiness to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and to Lady Diana Spencer. We are greatly encouraged here by the respect with which the marriage bond is held, and by the witness to it in the life of the Royal Family."

His statement came in the course of a debate on the church's policy towards divorce.

At an impromptu press conference later the Archbishop added his blessings, saying: "I am delighted with the news and I am honoured to have been invited to take the wedding.

"I am sure that with the present stage of winter and life in the country, it will be a great fillip for people to share in this happiness."

Dr Runcie said he was looking forward to an opportunity of talking to the couple and "finding out what their ideas about it are". He did not know where or when the marriage would take place.

The Archbishop said he enjoyed conducting marriages and regretted that his work gave him few opportunities to officiate.

Archbishops of Canterbury performed such ceremonies rarely, either on very formal occasions or very privately. Last week, for instance, he had baptized the child of his wife's hairdresser in the chapel at Lambeth Palace.

The last marriage ceremony he had performed, as Bishop of St Albans, had been for a woman who had been a bridesmaid at his own marriage.

He believed in couples coming to discuss marriage with the priest who was to perform the ceremony, and said: "My chief aim in preparing people for marriage is to establish such a relationship that they feel free to raise questions themselves; subsequently I feel a bond with those that I marry. Any good priest is bound to do so."

Abbey ceremony in the family tradition

By Lucy Hodges

The marriage of the Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer is expected to take place in Westminster Abbey towards the end of July, and if previous royal marriages are anything to go buy it will be a grand occasion.

Both sets of parents were married in Westminster Abbey, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1947 and Lady Diana's parents, who are now divorced, in 1954.

The Queen's marriage was a splendid event despite being soon after the Second World War. Rationing was still in force and Americans sent food parcels as a wedding gift to be distributed to widows. That ceremony was attended by foreign kings, queens, princes and leaders of the nation and empire.

It was reported by *The Times* that it was a ceremony of splendour, dignity and colour. People camped out on the pavements the night before to ensure good views of the processions, Buckingham Palace was floodlit and the Royal Family made frequent appearances on the balcony to wave at cheering crowds.

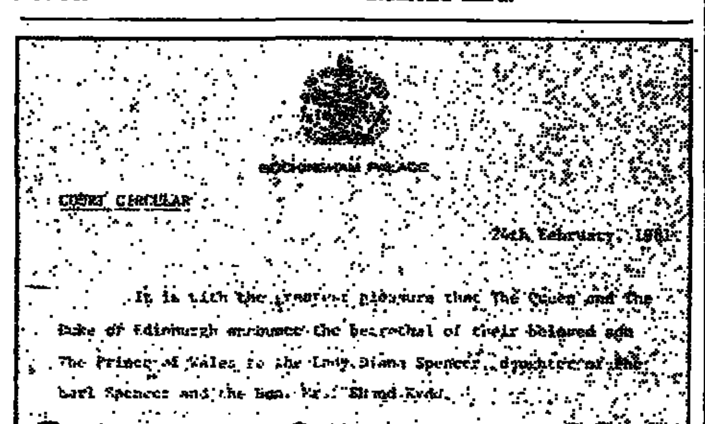
Princess Elizabeth, as she was then, chose Psalm 23, "The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want" and "Praise my soul the King of Heaven" for the service. The Lord Chamberlain, Lord Maclean, will be in charge of arrangements for this year's wedding.

John Masefield, the Poet Laureate, wrote a poem for the Princess's marriage in 1947 and presents flowed in from all over the world.

For the first time since September, 1939, the Household Cavalry wore full ceremonial dress and there was a sovereign's escort of seven officers and 119 other ranks. The estimated cost to the public was £4,500 and all other expenses were met from the Civil List.

The royal couple spent their honeymoon at Broadlands, near Romsey, the home of Lord and Lady Mountbatten of Burma, and at Birkhall, near Balmoral. There were eight bridesmaids and two pages in attendance.

At her marriage Lady Diana's mother, then the Hon Frances Roche, wore a gown of camellia-coloured faille embroidered with hand-cut diamonds, sequins and rhinestones and a tulle veil held in place by a diamond tiara.


BUCKINGHAM PALACE

COURT CIRCULAR

24th February, 1981.

It is with the greatest pleasure that The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh announce the betrothal of their beloved son The Prince of Wales to the Lady Diana Spencer, daughter of the Earl Spencer and the Hon. Mrs Shand Kydd.

Cut-out from yesterday's Court Circular.

Lord Spencer tells how the Prince of Wales asked for his permission by telephone

The proud father joins the crowds outside the palace

By Richard Ford

Lady Diana Spencer's ebullient father stood among crowds outside Buckingham Palace yesterday and spoke of a telephone call from the Prince of Wales asking for permission to marry his daughter.

Even then, the Prince's well known sense of humour was evident. Lord Spencer said: "The Prince said: 'Can I marry your daughter? I have asked her and, very surprisingly, she said yes.' I told him 'Well done' and said I was delighted for the two of them."

Lord Spencer, wearing a red carnation in the buttonhole of his navy blue suit, was bursting with pride as he sang the praises of his daughter, while inside, she and the Prince posed for photographers. The Prince and Lady Diana had been at Highgrove, the Prince's home in Gloucestershire, when they made the telephone call to him last week.

"She loves hi all right. There is no doubt about it. She is a giver, not a taker, and that is very rare these days. I think Charles is very lucky to have her", Lord Spencer said.

He had come to Buckingham Palace to see the excitement and crowds. The previous night he and his wife, Raine, the daughter of Miss Barbara Cartland, the novelist, had gone to the palace and spent an hour and a half with the Prince and Lady Diana. They were shown the sapphire and diamond engagement ring.

"It is a lovely ring, a beautiful sapphire. When I saw Diana last night she was looking radiant and very happy.

"I have come to the palace to get my own back by photographing all the photographers. I have photographed every event in her life and now I am photographing this one."

As crowds congratulated him, he photographed the cameramen taking pictures of him. He talked proudly of how his daughter had handled herself durin gthe last few months.

Later he was joined by his wife, and with her son, Henry, aged 12, they posed for photographs.

Lady Spencer, Lady Diana's stepmother, said: "We are very happy and enormously proud of Diana because she has taken on enormous responsibilities".

During the last three months they had many conversations with her about the onerous tasks of the future. "She was sweet enough to confide in us, but of course we will nor break her confidence. She has been to us a lot since Christmas as we tried to provide a refuge from all the personal problems. She had to thin kover a very momentous decision."

She had guessed that Lady Diana was in love with the Prince earlier this year. But she and her husband had found it difficult to keep it secret, and had been allowed to tell godparents, relations and close family friends only on Monday night.

Her step-daughter was a "sweet person", even-tempered and not all all highly strung or the sort to get depressed. "She was terribly anxious to do the right thing, not to say too much or do the wrong thing."

Lord Spencer said that in the past six months Lady Diana had grown up a lot, particularly because of the pressure of press and television interest. She had handled herself very well and the press liked her.

"Up to now she has been under tremendous pressure. But she will have a little protection from now on. It is a relief now and I am thankful for Diana. She was unprotected but she has proved herself, hasn't she? She has come through it with flying colours."

She had often had difficulty when she went to work, and a lot of people, including himself, would have found that kind of pressure intolerable at the age of 19. But he said the Queen had admired the way his daughter had handled herself.

The press had a job to be very thorough, but through their persistence had "rather made Diana's life difficult", but he now thought she was over the worst. She is obviously a very remarkable girl and I am very proud to be her father. She never breaks down, because Diana does not break down at all. It never got her down at all. She had great courage and resilience."

Lord Spencer said as he got into his bronze Rolls-Royce that the marriage would be in July, although a place had not yet been fixed. "We are looking forward to the day. We hope it is fine weather, although, knowing us, it will rain."

Asked what Lady Diana's plans were in the immediate future, he said she "will spend a lot of time, if she can, with Prince Charles, as that is what she wants to do. She wants to be beside him and with him now.

"She will do the job ahead very well. She loves Prince Charles, and Diana wants to give of herself, and I am sure she will. She is a wonderful girl."

Lord Spencer, Lady Diana's father, and his second wife talking to the press

World welcomes the announcement

Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, announced the engagement of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer in Parliament in Canberra only minutes after it was released by Buckingham Palace.

He welcomed the news and said later that he expected to attend the wedding.

Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, said in a telegram to the palace that the Roman Catholic community "offers loyal best wishes, congratulations an dprayers for their happiness".

Dr William B. Johnston, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said the church had heard the news "with great joy".

Lieutenant Roy Clare, Commanding Officer of the Prince's old ship, HMS Bronington, also sent a congratulatory message. Yesterday the Prince visited his old shipmates and spent a day at sea in the Solent with them.

Councillor John Edwards, the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, said: "I am sure everyone in Wales is thrilled by the announcemen and all of us are eagerly looking forward to the very special occasion of the wedding."

Barbara Cartland, the novelist, whose daughter is Lady Diana's stepmother, said: "I am so delighted that the Prince should have someone so charming and suitable to share his very exacting life. Like millions of people the world over ,I wish them great happiness together."

Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles, a long-time friend of the Prince, said: "I am delighted. It was what we all hoped for. I think Lady Diana is just right for the job."

There was delight too in Doughton, near Tetbury, the Cotswold town where the Prince has his Georgian mansion house, and at Sandringham, the birthplace of Lady Diana.

Mrs Diana Fitt-Savage, of Sandringham, who was Lady Diana's next-door neighbour, said: "She will make a marvellous queen. We are thrilled."

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, said: "On behalf of the whole Liberal Party I send warmest congratulations and good wishes to Prince Charles and Lady Diana

Gift makers ready to cash in

By David Hewson
Business News Staff

While the news of the royal engagement may have come as something of a relief to most of the country, to the Midlands it is likely to prove a godsend.

Pottery and silverware companies, whose sales have been falling in recent months, expect the wedding to provide a respite for the recession.

Almost every company in the retail gift market, from pottery giants such as Wedgwood to small-scale engravers, has been planning to enter the commemorative market during the past few months, although often with a different emphasis on those who might be involved.

Wedgwood has ben working on designe for its range of commemorative items costing between £2 and £2,000 but it had been defending a decision until an official announcement.

The Coventry textiles firm of J & J Cash, however, has almost completed the design for its commemorative bookmark costing £2.75, complete, that is, apart from the face of the woman alongside the Prince of Wales.

Mr Gordon Wright, Wedgwood's publicity director, said: "I think every manufacturer, including Wedgwood, has had something planned ever since the first rumour came out that he was going to get married. Lady Diana appears to be the first serious one.

H. Quibell & Sons, the Birmingham silversmiths, will be making silver-plated commemorative plates retailing at about £50 and featuring portraits of the couple. But Mr Neville Harry, the company's proprietor, has had some difficulties in producing a portrait of Lady Diana.

"The picture of Prince Charles is easy but it is very difficult to get a likeness of Lady Diana", Mr Harry, whose most recent task was producing two gold-plated sinks for a Jersey businessman, said.

Younger fashion house to make wedding dress

By Su zy Menkes
Fashion Editor

A British-designed wedding dress from one of the younger fashion houses will be Lady Diana Spencer's choice for her summer wedding.

Lady Diana, who favours a casual, sporty style of dress, will need a completely different wardrobe to cope with her new role in public life. She has previously selected outfits from the Knightsbridge house of Belville Sassoon, although Lady Spencer, her stepmother, dresses almost exclusively from the traditional royal houses of Hardy Amies and Norman Hartnell.

The ivory satin dress, with its lavishly embroidered flowers in crystal and seed pearls, made by the late Sir Norman Hartnell for Princess Elizabeth was always considered a most fitting bridal gown for the Queen.

This season's wedding dress at Hartnell, designed by Anette Harvey, is in moiré taffeta and silk georgette.

A full-skirted gown of white spotted organaza is offered by Ken Fleetwood, Hardy Amies's designer. His scalloped skirt is embroidered with flowers. David Sassoon also chose embroidered organaza for his off-the-shoulder dress with lacy neckline, full frilled sleeves and wide satin sash.

The sweeping crinoline skirt has been in fashion for royalty since Queen Victorial walked down the aisle of the Chapel Royal at St James's in a hoop skirt of ivory satin trimmed with Honiton lace (in order to encourage the waning Devon lace industry).

Norman Hartnell designed Princess Margaret's organdie dress, cut in 14 sections and worn over underskirts of tulle.

Elizabeth and David Emmanuel, the designers whose extravagant evenings gowns are much favoured by Princess Micchael and the Duchess of Kent, last week showed their crinoline of paper taffeta with a low ruffled neckline and narrow waist.

Gina Fratini, whose romantically pretty dresse swere shortlisted by Princess Anne before she selected a dress by Maureen Baker, is another possible candidate for the royal wedding dress, as are Ian Thomas, the Queen's personal favourite, and the designer, Julia Fortescue.

Offer of lace: Lacemakers in Nottingham are writing to Buckingham Palace to ask if Lady Diana Spencer will accept a gift of lace for her wedding dress (our Nottingham Correspondent writes).

Mr Ronald Walton, director of the British Lace Federation, based in Nottingham, said yesterday that it was a tradition that part of the dress for a royal wedding was made from local lace.

The engagement ring, a sapphire in a diamond surround.

Flatmates kept the secret

The two girls who share a flat with Lady Diana are delighted at the news of the engagement.

Miss Carolyn Pride, aged 19, and Miss Virginia Pitman, aged 21, heard the news early this month when Lady Diana returned to the flat in Colbourne Court, Old Brompton Road, London.

Miss Pride, who went to school with Lady Diana, said: "We never dreamed of telling anyone. We were determined to keep it a secret. "We were all so thrilled that we a celebratory breakfast the next day."

Miss Pitman said Lady Diana just sat on the bed next to her and said she was going to marry the Prince.

"She had a big smile on her face. And then we all began to cry with happiness.

Watching crowd in celebratory mood

By a Staff Reporter

Outside Buckingham Palace yesterday, where the British have so often shown their spontaneous affection for the Royal Family, crowds quickly gathered in celebratory mood to try to catch a glimpse of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer.

In spite of freezing weather, 3,000 people, among them many tourists, were watching the changing of the guard when official confirmation that the engagement had been announced swept through the crowd.

Shortly afterwards, as cold faces pressed up against the railings of the palace, a band of the Coldstream Guards struck up "Congratulations".

Among the tourists, many were unaware that the royal romance had now been officially sealed and they were bewildered by the journalists and cameramen who stood huddled in groups by one of the entrances to the palace forecourt.

On the Victoria Monument, affectionately known to journalists who have covered many royal events as "the wedding cake", a battery of telephoto lenses were trained on the balcony of the palace in the hope that the newly engaged couple would make an appearance to acknowledge the cheers of the crowd.

The crowd was swelled by many schoolchildren on half-term holiday and the warm reaction from many people was that yesterday's announcement had come at the right time. It clearly reflected the popular view that the Prince of Wales had waited quite long enough before settling down.

Mrs Susan Clayton, from Baildon, Bfradford, said she had been a little surprised, as Lady Diana was very young. However, there was general conviction that despite her relative youth Lady Diana is the right choice for the Prince.

A delighted Miss E. Donnelly, a secretary from Clapham, who had travelled from her home to join the crowd after hearing the news, said: "It is about time. After all, the prince is 32. But I'm very pleased about it."

Miss Donnelly, like many others, mentioned that she thought Lady Diana had had a background like Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and that that would be good for the Royal Family. "I think it is a good idea to have some new blood into a family once in a while", she said.

Inside the palace people attending an investiture had cause for a double celebration as they, according to one of them, "had the privilege of seeing the Queen so soon after the announcement".

Councillor John Bradley, of Halifax, said the Lord Chamberlain made the official announcement to the recipients of honours in an anteroom.

Mr Ronald Greenwood, the England football team manager, said as he left the palace: "It was a lovely occasion to be involved in. It made it a double celebration to be here on this particular day."

Among the crowds there was almost unanimous approval of Lady Diana. For her father, Lord Spencer, who stood unrecognized listening and watching, it was perhaps a time for private reflection that she is now public property.

By last night the crowd outside Buckingham Palace had dwindled to small groups. As they waited Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was holding a private dinner party at Clarence House for the Prince of Wales and his fianceé.

Timing 'a deliberate distraction'

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Whie Mrs Margaret Thatcher and most MPs in all parties joined in sending congratulations and good wishes to the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer on their engagement, some Labour MPs suspected that the timing of the announcement was the result of connivance between Buckingham Palace and the Government to distaract attention from the latest increase in the unemployment figures, which put the total number out of work at 2,436,294.

That was not the official party view. Indeed, Lord Peart, leader of the opposition peers, referred in the House of Lords to "this happy news" and proferred the warmest congratulations of his colleagues.

In the Commons there was not the same opportunity for formal congratulations, but there were loud cheers from all quarters of the House when during question time, the Prime Minister said that, at the audience of the Queen which she hoped to have later, she would express "the great pleasure which the news of the Prince of Wales's engagement has brought to the Government and to the House as a whole".

In the Lords Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said: "The House will wish to have an opportunity in due course to convey a more formal message to her Majesty the Queen. In the meantime peers would wish to join with me in conveying our heartfelt congratulations and very good wishes to his Royal Highness Prince Charles and the Lady Diana."

Lord Byers, leader of the Liberal peers, said they wanted to be associated in full with the congratulations and good wishes.

Lady Hylton-Foster, for the independent peers, said: "This is an exception when the cross-bench peers would also like to associate with the good wishes and congratulations from this House on the happy opccasion of this engagement".

From the bishops' bench the Bishop of Salisbury said: "We shall continue to pray that God's guidance and his riches will attend Prince Charles and Lady Diana to the end of their days".

Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Fife, Central, and a persistent critic of the "extravagance" of the Royal Family, said: "I think there has been connivance, through Conservative Party agencies, between the palace and 10 Downing Street in deliberately distracting attention from the latest unemployment figures, almost the worst for this century.

"During the next few months we shall have further distractions from the results of the Government's disastrous policies as the celebrations get under way. There will be no question of cash limits, a 6 per cent restriction, or worry about the impact on the public sector borrowing requirement.

"The sky will be the limit. And the British people, deferential as always, will wallow in it.

"The winter of discontent is now being replaced by the winter of phony romance, with the active connivance of the Government."

Mr Hamilton said that nobody should be surprised that the palace statement coincided with the declaration of the unemployment figures and the announcement about the rundown of the steel industry. "That is how the Establishment works and how we expect it to work", he said.

Referring to Prince Charles's future income, he said: "As an individual, he should live on his own sweat".

Mr Hamilton recalled that a House of Commons committee set up to examine the Civil List had recommended that provision be made for the possibility of Prince Charles's marriage and that there should be a pension of £60,000 a year if he left a widow.

"Now the prospect is a little bit nearer, thar £60,000, which we decided upon in the early 1970s, must be revised upwards. I should think the amount would be £150,000 at least for the prospective widow now", Mr Hamilton said.

He expected that the next allocations under the Civil List to the Royal Family would be announced on March 10, the day of the Budget and would cause another distraction.

"The beer drinkers, the wine drinkers, the cigarette smokers and others will be asked to cut down their consumption, but there will be no similar tightening of the belts for the Royal Family.

"And I expect there will be housing provision for the royal couple within the public housing sector."

Mrs Thatcher told the Cabinet yesterday about the royal engagements. Under the Royal Marriages Act, 1772, the Prince's marriage has to have the consent of the Queen. That is contained in a formaldocument, embossed with the Great Seal, which is "declared" at a special meeting of the Privy Council.

Before the announcement could be made the Queen informed Mrs Thatcher. That was done at the end of last week. The Prime Minister then informed a number of senior colleagues, who included Lord Hailsham, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council, and Mr Francis Pym, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

After that Mrs Thatcher advised the Queen that she could see no reason why consent should not be given to the proposed marriage. The Privy Council ceremony need not take place for several weeks.

It was the responsibility of the palace officials to notify the Archibishop of Canterbury, the Commonwealth heads of government, the Leader of the Opposition, and others whom the Queen felt should be notified.

Among MPs it is widely expected that the marriage will take place on July 23 and that the day would be declared a public holiday. But the official word from Whitehall and the palace was that the date, place and time ha duot been fixed.

I played Cupid for my sister, Lady Sarah says

Lady Sarah McCorquodale, Lady Diana's elder sister, said yesterday: "I introduced them. I am Cupid. It is wonderful news and I am delighted."

She introduced Lady Diana to the Prince at a weekend shoot on the family estate at Althorp, Northampton, in 1977.

"The only difficult bit has been keeping quiet in the last 10 days", Lady Sarah added. She was linked romantically with Prince Charles herself before her marriage two years ago.

"I saw Diana in her London flat and I guessed when I saw her face. She was totally radiant, bouncing, bubbling, and I said 'You're engaged' and she said 'Yes'.

"She just told me that they are getting married in the summer. They are both over the moon. He met Miss Right and she met Mr Right. They just clicked."

Lady Sarah, aged 25, who is married to Mr Neil McCorquodale, a farmer in Lincolnshire, said she felt the Prince and her sister would be "totally compatible" in marriage.

"They have the same sense of humour, she is very giggly and he is giggly. She loves ballet and oper aand sport in all forms. I think the romance started after she was invited to Balmoral last autumn, but at that time I thought Diana was just another girl friend.

"It struck me that they were in love just before Christmas. There was an extra sparkle in her eye, and I thought a wedding could be on the cards."

Correction

In an agency report on February 18 about a wage award by an ACAS arbitration board to white-collar electrical workers it was said that a national officer of a trade union had complained that the chairman, Sir John Wood, had taken account of submissions by the employers made outside the hearing. That was incorrect. Sir John had no private conversation involving the employers.

Prince ends 300-year tradition

It is more than 300 years since the heir to the throne has married an English women. The Queen Mother was Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, daughter of the Scottish Earl of Strathmore, when she married the future George VI in 1923; for centuries before that the heir had taken a foreign bride.

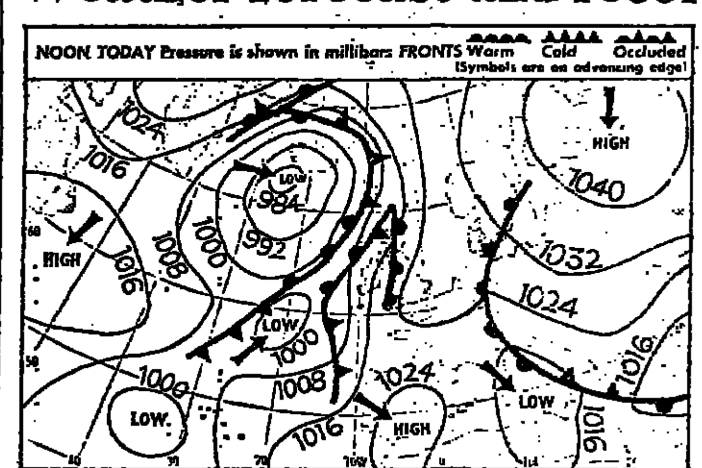
George V married Princess Mary, daughter of the German Duke of Teck, and his predecessor, Edward VII, married a Danish girl, Queen Alexandra. Queen Victoria married a German, Prince Albert, and all her Hanoverian ancestors back to George I in 1714 married German princesses.

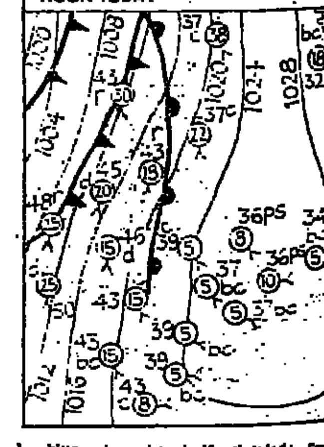
Before him, Queen Anne married the son of the King of Denmark and her predecessor, Queen Mary II, married William of Orange, who was only a quarter English.

The last English bride was in 1659, when William's predecessor, then Prince James and later Kink James II, married Lady Anne Hyde, elder daughter of the First Earl of Clarendon.

English brides before her had included four of the wives of Henry VIII, more than a century earlier.

Weather forecast and recordings





b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; prs—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph.

Today

Sun rises: 6.55 am. Sun sets: 5.34 pm
Moon sets: 9.46 am. Moon rises: 12.33 am tomorrow
Last quarter: February 27.

Lighting up: 6.4 pm to 6.23 am.

High water: London Bridge, 5.29 am, 6.5m; 5.53 pm, 6.5m. Avonmouth, 10.38 am, 11.5m; 10.52 pm, 11.0m. Dover, 2.33 am, 6.1m; 2.51 pm, 5.7m. Hull, 9.59 am, 6.6m; 10.13 pm, 6.6m. Liverpool, 2.45 am, 8.1m; 2.56 pm, 8.0m.
1ft=0.3048m 1m=3.2808ft

A ridge of high pressure will persist in S; a frontal trough will cross N areas.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE England, East Anglia: Variable cloud, occasional light snow showers, perhaps patchy fog early; wind mostly NE, light; maximum temp 2° or 3°C (36° to 37°F); frost early and late.

Central S, central N, E, NE England, Midlands: Mostly dry, mist and freezing fog patches slowly thinning to give some hazy sunshine; wind variable, later SE, light; maximum temp 3° or 4°C (37° to 39°F); frost early and late.

Channel Islands, SW, NW England, Wales: Mostly dry, variable cloud, perhaps patchy freezing fog early; wind SE, light, increasing to moderate; max temp 4° to 6°C (39° to 43°F); frost early and late.

Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Mostly dry, perhaps a little sleet or snow at times, chiefly on hills, rather cloudy; wind S, fresh to strong; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Central Highlands: Outbreaks of snow turning to rain, moderate accumulations with drifting; wind S, strong, perhaps gale; max temp 5°C (41°F).

N Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain or drizzle at times; wind S, fresh or strong; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Mostly dry and rather cold with overnight frost; less cold in W, with some rain and snow on hills.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind E, veering SE, light or moderate; sea slight.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S, fresh or strong; sea rough or very rough.

Yesterday

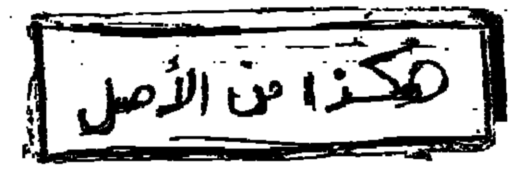
London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 4°C (39°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 0°C (32°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 76 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, a trace. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm, 3.1 hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,027.4 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; s, sun; sn, snow; th, thunder.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	c	15	59	Cardiff	f	3	37	Jersey	s	5	41	Naples	s	2	36
Algiers	s	18	64	Cologne	s	0	32	L Palmas	s	19	66	Nice	f	11	52
Amsterdm	c	0	32	Copenhgn	c	2	36	Lisbon	s	12	54	Oslo	sn	-2	28
Athens	c	10	50	Dublin	c	6	43	Locarno	f	13	55	Paris	c	1	34
Barcelona	f	13	55	Edinburgh	s	3	37	London	s	3	37	Reykjavik	sn	-1	30
Beirut	th	13	55	Florence	f	0	32	Luxemburg	f	-2	28	Rome	s	14	57
Belfast	f	4	39	Funchal	s	18	64	Madrid	s	10	50	Ronldswy	c	4	39
Berlin	c	2	36	Geneva	f	3	37	Majorca	s	15	59	Stockhlm	sn	0	32
Biarritz	c	8	46	Gibraltar	s	18	64	Malaga	s	17	63	Tel Aviv	c	16	61
Birmighm	s	1	34	Guernsey	f	4	39	Malta	s	14	57	Venice	s	0	32
Bristol	s	4	39	Helsinki	sn	-4	25	Manchestr	c	3	37	Vienna	c	3	37
Brussels	f	-1	30	Innsbruck	f	1	34	Moscow	s	-3	27	Warsaw	s	2	36
Budapest	c	5	41	Istanbul	d	6	43	Munich	f	2	36	Zurich	s	2	36

Overseas selling prices
Australia $2; Austria Sch 20; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B Frs 35; Canaries Pes 100; Cyprus 150 mils; Denmark Dkr 5.50; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mkk 5; France Frs 4.50; Germany Dm 3.00; Greece Dr 50; Holland Gl 3.50; Iran Rl 135; Iraq ID 0.300; Irish Republic 30p; Italy L 1100; Jordan LD 0.450; Kuwait KD 0.350; Lebanon LL 4.00; Luxembourg LF 35; Madeira Esc 50; Malta 20c; Morocco Dir 5.00; Norway Kr 6.00; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 10; Portugal Esc 50; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 5.25; Singapore $4.5; Spain Pes 100; Sweden Skr 5.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria LS 5.50; Tunisia Din .450; US and Canada $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 40.

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Water union leaders approve industrial action, but hope for last-minute improved offer

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Leaders of the second largest union in the water and sewerage industry gave approval yesterday for their members to take industrial action if there is no improvement in the employers' "final" offer of a pay rise of 10 per cent.

The decision of the executive of the National Union of Public Employees, which has about 10,000 members in the industry, was announced shortly before a hastily arranged meeting of the employers started to consider whether to increase the offer to avoid the industrial action that union leaders believe is inevitable.

The National Water Council members of the industry's negotiating council were due to meet today after the four unions had met to consider the demands for a strike by most of the workforce of 32,000 in England and Wales. But the meeting was brought forward "to review the situation", a council official said last night.

Union leaders were standing by for a call from Sir Robert Marshall, chairman of the water council, to indicate that an improvement could be made to the offer.

Water council officials have made clear during the past three weeks, as it became apparent from voting by water workers at meetings around the country that there was a growing demand for industrial action, that the threat of a national strike would not lead to an improved offer.

Last night, however, union officials were cautiously optimistic that the council's decision to bring forward the meeting might mean a softening of its attitude.

If there is no improved offer, the unions are expected to give a few days' notice of strike action, which in the first instance could be selective. Yesterday's decision by the Nupe executive gave its officials authority to coordinate industrial action.

Meanwhile, unofficial action continued in several areas, with workers in Lancashire being the first to strike. Nupe has given official backing to a work-to-rule and overtime ban imposed in West Wales and Gwent.

British Gas made a slightly improved pay offer last night to its 42,000 manual workers that would take increases to between 9.1 and 10.2 per cent. The offer was rejected by union leaders, who will consult their members. They will, however, obviously await the outcome of the water negotiations, because informal pay links have been forged between the two industries.

Letters, page 17

Managers prepare to man pumps

By Our Labour Staff

Five senior managers at Britain's largest water pumping station and treatment plant are drawing up plans to take over the work of 300 men in an effort to maintain supplies to a large part of London if there is a strike in the industry.

Manual workers at the Hampton plant, Middlesex, have decided that if their union leaders call a strike at a meeting today, they will walk out. But several workers yesterday expressed reservations about the effects their action could have on the public.

Most of the men are members of the General and Municipal Workers Union, and their work, at least in the early stages of the dispute, would have to be done by Mr Ted Wilson, the senior resident engineer, his deputy and three pumping station engineers. They would have to work 12-hour shifts as they try to keep the pumping and cleansing machinery operating.

Once the strike has started, water pressure would be reduced to minimize the risk of fractured mains, which would be left unrepaired. Mr Wilson said yesterday that it could be several weeks before taps started to run dry or supplies became impure, but a breakdown in equipment could hasten a dangerous situation.

The station, which pumps about 130 million gallons a day, also feeds reservoirs. Should the reservoirs start to run dry, water tankers, probably driven by troops, would deliver water to residential areas.

With the approach of spring, the weather could affect the purification beds, where weeds will grow unchecked without the manual workers to do maintenance work. The water authorities would also be unable to deal with emergency calls, because the emergency gangs are members of the unions.

Both management and manual workers at Hampton said that maintaining supplies to hospitals and kidney patients would be paramount. But because of the sophisticated nature of the industry and because there has never been a national dispute, no one is sure whether that is possible.

The plight of kidney patients strikes a particular chord with Mr Clifford Baker, a labourer at Hampton, whose wife died of kidney disease. "I think I would probably come out on strike, but it would make me extremely sad. I might consider getting out of the industry altogether because a strike would affect so many people."

The National Union of Public Employees has a few members at the plant, and he said that the unions there had never been militant. They had cooperated with the introduction of more advanced machinery, which had meant a reduction in jobs.

The modernization of the works will soon be taken a step farther when the steam-powered pumps are replaced by electric pumps, which will lead to further job cuts.

Mr Edward Riggs, a labourer and GMWU shop steward, said the unions had been forced into considering industrial action because the 10 per cent offer was not good enough. His present weekly earnings after tax and other deductions were £77

Sewage in streets would speed settlement

By Peter Hennessy

The prospect of sewage in the streets is a politician's nightmare, one of the most vivid indications that the Government has lost the capability to govern. With the imminent prospect of Britain's first national water strike, that spectre is haunting the Cabinet and its committee charged with planning for industrial emergencies, the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU).

The Government's contingency plan for water, revised in the light of experience of local and unofficial action in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire in 1979, is untested and is the subject of considerable scepticism among the best informed insiders.

One source of relief among veteran contingency planners, however, is that the Government has abandoned the idea, *for a national water strike* at least, of appealing for civilian volunteers to replace striking workers and work alongside the Armed Forces in the manner of the general strike of 1926, should a state of emergency be declared.

Disruption of supplies would not cause instant and widespread health hazards or seeping of sewage through manhole covers because much depends on whether the strikers start by going for industrial supplies alone or attack domestic supplies first, and on other factors like rainfall filling up storage tanks at sewage works more quickly than usual, but the most seasoned planners are convinced that the Government would have to settle the strike in days rather than weeks.

A local, unofficial stoppage is manageable, but a national official dispute is not. That is particularly true if, as is the case in the present negotiations, supervisory staff, members of the National and Local Government Officers Association, make it clear in advance that they will not guide or assist the naval technicians and personnel from the Royal Engineers and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who, under the CCU plan, will be drafted into treatment plants and pumping stations.

A few days of widespread dislocation of domestic water supplies and an increasingly dirty, irritable and fearful citizenry putting pressure on Parliament and Government to do something, with an equivalent outpouring of venom towards pickets encircling pumping stations and treatment plants, would probably concentrate the minds of both sides wonderfully, and assist in achieving a swift resolution of the dispute.

The CCU's plan is realistic in its intention to buy extra time for negotiations and to relieve pockets of severe civil distress by using army treatment units to decontaminate supplies and mobile tankers to haul water from clean areas into dirty ones once sewage has back-siphoned or untreated effluent has been drawn from rivers into mains supply intakes downstream of sewage stations that have stopped working.

Volunteers from bodies such as the Women's Royal Voluntary Service could be used under local authority supervision to help the aged, infirm and housebound by carrying water from military bowsers into homes.

The CCU put the finishing touches last month to a set of regulations that would be introduced after Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had secured parliamentary approval for the declaration of a state of emergency under the Emergency Powers Act, 1920 that approval is needed by the Government if the Armed Forces are to be ordered to commandeer water authority equipment.

In industrial relations terms the breaking point for the water authorities is the chlorination, or disinfection, of drinking supplies. Within 48 hours of a total stoppage, health hazard could become a real danger in some areas even if troops were deployed.



Pickets of the General and Municipal Workers Union outside the North West Water Authority's works in Foxenton Lane, Oldham, yesterday.

Frost risk to water mains

From John Chartres
Manchester.

Although the first unofficial strike in the water workers' dispute started early yesterday in the Oldham, Ashton-under-Lyne and Rochdale areas, officials of the North West Water Authority assured the public last night that there was no cause for immediate alarm.

The water authority, whose territory stretches from Crewe to Carlisle, said that only about *100 workers in their Pennine* division had "jumped the gun" by striking from midnight. Their action could affect the public only if water mains burst and the strikers refused to attend to them. If that happened, stand-pipes would have to be erected.

There is a fairly strong risk of water mains freezing in the upland territories of Lancashire at present because of forecasts of continuing temperatures down to −2°C.

Strike option move by senior civil servants

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The top civil servants' union is drawing up plans to allow for industrial action in the highest echelons of government departments.

Rule changes to be put to the annual delegate conference of the Association of First Division Civil Servants in May will permit the union's executive committee to recommend action "if other steps for resolving differences have been exhausted or are inappropriate in the circumstances".

But the use of such action is regarded as "a last resort", and individual members will be free to reject a strike recommendation and follow their consciences and the ethical requirements of their professions.

Under the proposed changes, the union's executive will have to hold a ballot before calling for industrial action that involves the complete withdrawal of labour for more than one day, whether by all or part of the 12,000 membership.

Other safeguards are built into the procedure. The executive will be obliged to consult branch chairmen and secretaries before recommending any form of disruption and if a strike of less than a day is involved a ballot will be held "if circumstances permit".

Political strikes will not be entertained.

Industrial action move: Leaders of 530,000 white-collar civil servants will resolve tomorrow to give notice of official industrial action to the Government ater returns from Whitehall's biggest union showing a majority of more than two to one in favour of a strike campaign (Our Labour Staff writes).

The Council of Civil Service Unions will take the formal step at its meeting of approving the campaign after the rejection on Monday of a 7 per cent pay offer.

The resolution approved yesterday by the union's major policy committee specifies a one-day stoppage of all non-industrial civil servants—on March 9.

Sir Keith fails to lift steel industry gloom with 'last chance' warning

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

If Sir Keith Joseph and the Prime Minister went before the House of Commons yesterday with the aim of boosting the morale of the British Steel Corporation and its workforce, they would not wish to see them in a genuinely gloomy mood.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the corporation's dynamic new chairman, brought from across the Atlantic to save the ailing giant, would seem to be on a hiding to nothing. If his corporate plan succeeds and the industry becomes profitable, the Prime Minister told MPs, the Government could denationalize it and sell it to the private sector.

If the plan failed, and the Secretary of State for Industry seemed to think that was very much on the cards, there would be further closures and redundancies.

To add to the general discomfiture of everyone in the industry, Sir Keith announced a new Iron and Steel Bill, published yesterday, that would permit "an extensive rundown of the corporation, if that proves necessary", and would "ease the transfer of businesses to the private sector".

He went on to tell the House that Mr MacGregor admitted his rescue was optimistic, and he was inclined to agree with that. According to the chairman, the corporation was bankrupt by all normal commercial criteria, but since it was a statutory body it could not be liquidated like a private sector company.

Emphasizing that this was the industry's last chance, the Secretary of State added ominously that although the Government might be having to spend taxpayers' money on this occasion, powers were being sought to relieve the taxpayer of the inescapable obligation to fund the corporation indefinitely.

All of that, of course, went down like a lead balloon with Mr Stanley Orme, Opposition spokesman on industry, and his brothers on the Labour back benches.

Mr Orme huffed and puffed magnificently but it was soon clear that Sir Keith's purpose yesterday was not to raise the morale of those in the steel industry or even to placate the seething hordes on the other side of the House.

Of far greater concern to the Government were the seething hordes on the Tory back benches, already roaring with anger over the cave-in to the miners and the handouts to British Leyland.

If Sir Keith had come before them with more massive sums for steel without balancing that with a heavy dose of gloom and much talk of denationalization, he could well have been carried headless from the Chamber.

Union welcome: Steel union leaders last night welcomed the financial reconstruction of their industry, but insisted that many millions more would be needed from the Government if the Corporation was not put on an equal footing with European competitors (our Labour Editor writes).

Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, asked: "Where is this money going? Again, chiefly for interest payments, redundancy payments and the purchase of pieces of private sector companies."

He applauded the Cabinet's decision to wipe off some of the corporation's long-term debt but argued that the move came rather late. Most European nations had been through that exercise.

Parliamentary report, page 9
Leading article, page 17
State subsidies, page 23

Further cash injection for British Steel

Continued from page 1

...t Sir Keith ever dreamed ...ld have been necessary, and ...admitted at a press conference last night that even with latest assistance "there can be no certainty" that it will succeed in achieving BSC's objective of reaching a financial breakeven point in the 1982-83 financial year.

The Government has sought to allay the fears of the private sector steel makers. But it ...rged last night that Conservative backbenchers will seek amendments to the new Iron and Steel Bill which will substantially toughen its provisions.

Sir Keith defended his decision not to advance subsidies to private sector companies: "That is not a route which makes much sense. This Government wants to reduce subsidies not to increase them", he said.

But Mr Michael Grylls, chairman of the Conservative Industry Committee, said that Tory backbenchers would attempt to introduce amendments to the Bill and also insist on the incorporation of clear powers to effect the liquidation of BSC if the survival plan failed.

Mr MacGregor will consider placing those businesses which are in competition with the private sector, into separate Companies Act companies. This would encompass steel stockholding activities and other downstream operations, and would be additional to attempts being made to establish joint venture operations with private sector steelmakers in areas where they overlap. Once concluded they will embrace between 15-25 per cent of BSC's existing business.

Closure and redundancy costs in the current year will swallow up an estimated £300m, falling to about £180m next year. The BSC is planning a modest level of investment for next year of about £200m.

But the degree of uncertainty about the future is reflected by its own forecasts

The steel trap, page 16

...timates by Whitehall ...ot adequate'

A senior Treasury official admitted last night that the ...iled financial estimates of ...rnment spending presented ...Whitehall did not contain the information Parliament ...ded.

Mr Michael Bridgeman, ...er-secretary in charge of the ...asury's general expenditure ...p, told the Commons Select Committee on Procedure (Supply), under questioning ...Mr John Garrett, Labour ... for Norwich, South: "I ...ld certainly agree that the ...mates have *their shortcom*...

...e told Mr Enoch Powell, ...cial Ulster Unionist MP for ...m, South: "it is far from ...r whether they in fact con... the right information for ...liament".

...arlier, he said that shifting ... financial year to coincide ... the calendar year to en... Parliament to examine ...mates more effectively ...ld mean an upheaval.

Fraud concocted as shares began to fall, court told

A fraud of breath-taking magnitude was concocted when the price of shares of the apparently booming London and Counties Securities, a City property and finance group, began to fall, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Mr David Smout, for the prosecution, said the fraud, using £5m belonging to a subsidiary, a bank called London and Counties (A and D), was thought up after a scheme to rig share prices and keep them artificially high failed.

The group was under the chairmanship of Gerald Caplan, who was not in the dock but was assisted by one of the five defendants, Arthur Pepperell, aged 53, he said.

Between June, 1972, and August, 1973, another subsidiary, London and Counties (Foreign), was involved in mopping up available group shares so that a false price could be created and maintained.

That was "down to the knowledge" of Mr Pepperell and the other defendants, Woolf Perry, aged 58, Brian McMenemy, aged 40, Brian Kendall, aged 47, and Ian Green, aged 43.

Mr Perry, of Highwood Hill, Mill Hill, London; Mr McMenemy, of Highwood Drive, Orpington, Kent; Mr Kendall, of Stag Green Avenue, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, and Mr Green, of Baxendale, Whetstone, London, deny conspiring with Mr Caplan and Mr Pepperell to defraud by creating a false market price in ordinary shares of London and Counties Securities.

Mr Pepperell and Mr Green deny theft and Mr Pepperell alone denies further theft charges, falsifying a document, uttering a forged letter, and dishonestly obtaining the reduction of a debt.

The trial continues today.

Union leaders threaten industrial force to influence ministers

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Government was warned last night that the threat and the use of industrial force on the model of last week's successful miners' strike would inevitably grow unless ministers adopteds policies more acceptable to the unions.

Trade union leaders met Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, for more than an hour to press their arguments for a £6,200m publicly funded saimulus to the economy in the forthcoming Budget.

Mr David Basnett, chairman of the TUC economic committee, told the Treasury ministerial team and Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, that they did not appear to grasp the scale and speed with which the economy was being eroded. He insisted that the slump showed no sign of ending.

"The TUC welcomes the belated scign of flexibility displayed by the Government last week over the serious problems of the mining industry", he added. "There is joy in heaven over the sinner that repenteth. But does the repentance go far enough and was it induced b ythe right motives?

"If we cannot hope for change by mutual discussion and a willingness by the Government to listen without the application of industrial force, then the threat and the use of such force will inevitably glow."

That was not a choice the unions welcomed, Mr Basnett went on. "Industrial action means further hardship for our members and for the community. We have to ask ourselves, however, is there any other means of deflecting this Administration from policies which are having disastrous consequencies for the nation's wellbeing?"

Neither Mr Basnett nor Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, would be drawn on which groups of workers might be involved in the threat or use of industrial strength, although the water workers, most of whom belong to Mr Basnett's General and Municipal Workers Union, and the civil servants are poised to strike in pursuit of higher pay.

Mr Murray told miners: "Recent events I hope reflect a better understanding by you and your colleagues of the crucial role of the nationalized industries. But more is needed than ad hoc responses to government-created crisis.

"These industries must be provided with the resources, and most important with the financial framework, which allow them to invest adequately for the nation's future." Direct aid to private industry was also vital and immediate action was required to bring down interest rates and the sterling exchange rate.

Mr Basnett predicted that the Thatcher Administration would end up spending more than any previous government on industry, but in an uncoordinated and unstructured fashion.

Tory MP calls for change in Government's policies

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

"You can only expand your way out of inflation", a senior Tory backbencher said yesterday in urging the Government to adopt a "positive industrial strategy of trying to invest in winners instead of the present backing of losers".

Mr Peter Tapsell, MP for Horncastle, a frequent and formidable critic of the management of the Government's monetary policies, insisted in a lecture at City University, London, that it would be folly to ignore the present danger signals of collapse.

The decline in manufacturing investment and the remorseless squeeze on profit margins of almost all businesses "must be arrested quickly if our national situation in 1984 is not indeed to become Orwellian".

Mr Tapsell said that "seed corn" capital expenditure had to be maintained, particularly in a slump, while current expenditure could be cut. So far the Government's approach had tended to be the other way round.

"Some forms of expenditure on telecommunications, on in the public sector—on defence roads and railways, on housing, for example—can be very helpful to the private sectors", he said.

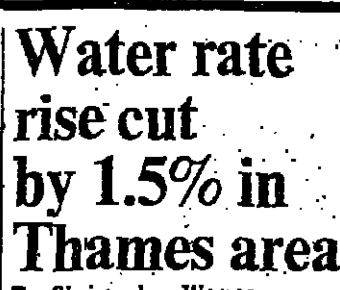
Mr Tapsell suggested that priority be given to high technology and high value-added industries and reiterated his call for lower interest and exchange rates, combined with a clearly defined industrial strategy.

He insisted that the tough questions deserved study, including (and he acknowledged that it was the most extreme historical example) why Hitler was able to expand the German economy in the three years after 1933 without provoking a return to ruinous inflation.

Mr Tapsell accepted that it was difficult for the Government to "pick winners" but said that that must be preferable to the present policy. "By having no industrial policy we get the worst of both worlds".

Noting that tax revenues from North Sea oil might rise to £15,000m by 1984, Mr Tapsell said they ought to be used partly to equip the growth industries to enable them to compete internationally.

Water rate rise cut by 1.5% in Thames area



By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Thames Water Authority yesterday reduced its increase in charges by 1.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent from April after a government request for extra savings to help consumers, especially industrial and commercial users.

To do so it has cut its £423.5m budget by £14.7m, half the savings coming from a reduction in capital spending. The authority hopes the savings can be made without any reduction in services, but some projects will have to be postponed.

In common with the other water authorities, Thames was asked to make savings after the Government expressed concern at the proposed increases in charges, ranging from 14 to 28 per cent.

Teams of independent accountants went to each authority to establish where savings could be made, but reported back to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, that there was little margin for cost cutting.

As a result the authorities have made small spending cuts, and the borrowing limits have been adjusted among the authorities within the same total of £454m to reduce the burden on charges for some of the worst affected authorities.

The Thames Water Authority has had its external financing limit cut by nearly £10m, and the North West Water Authority, for example, received an additional £21m, enabling it to reduce its increase in charges from 26 to 16.5 per cent.

In the Commons yesterday, Mrs Margaret Thatcher diplomatically congratulated the water authorities

Government's strategy 'has collapsed'

By Our Political Staff

Criticism of the Government's economic policies was voiced last night by Mr George Gardiner, Conservative MP for Reigate. He said in Brent, north London, that many would ask, after the backdown over pit closures, whether the Government knew where it was going.

Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of th eInstitute of Directors, told a private meeting of the Conservative backbench finance committee that the coherence and force of the Government's economic strategy had collapsed

His members' firms were being "threatened with imminent liquidation by the piratical, unfair competition of nationalized industries subsidized by private sector's taxes.

The Government "is in danger of presiding over the gradual and pragmatic strengtheing of the powers, the privileges, and the size of the nationalized industries and the trade union



Mr Philip Young feeding treated straw to his herd of Poll Herefords at Ringstead, near Hunstanton, Norfolk. The straw is processed by a Danish method in what is thought to be the first feed conversion plant of its kind on a British farm.

Mental health legal aid proposal

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

Legal aid should be made available to allow patients appearing before mental health review tribunals to be represented, the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee on legal aid says in its annual report published yesterday.

Such legal aid is urgently needed, the committee says. Lay representation is not an adequate substitute.

'The decisions of these tribunals will often depend, to a large extent, on the medical reports on the patients, which would be made available to a solicitor but might not always be made available either to the applicant himself or to his lay representative.

"The work involved in representing applicants is extremely specialized, and solicitors are more likely to have relevant knowledge and expertise than are most lay people."

The committee accepts the arguments put to it by MIND, the mental health charity, that no other tribunal dealt directly with the liberty of the subject, and that the vulnerability of patients detained in institutions made it particularly difficult for them to argue their case themselves.

The committee draws attention to the injustices caused when parents whose children may be taken away from them and put in the care of the local authority are not entitled to legal aid so that they can be represented in court.

The Government has repeatedly said that there is no money available for extending legal aid for that purpose. But the Lord Chancellor's committee proposes an interim solution, allowing parents to be represented if it seemed that there was a conflict of interests between parents and child.

The committee commends the work of conciliation services in divorce cases.

Research into conciliation services in Bristol, the pioneering city for such schemes, suggests that they often take much of the bitterness out of divorce and that there is a saving on legal aid expenditure.

In a report published with the advisory committee's report the Law Society calls for criminal legal aid to be made available to people applying against a magistrate's refusal of bail. It proposes that it should be possible for such appeals to go to Crown Court judges instead of High Court judges.

The statistics published with the reports show that civil legal aid totalled £47m in the year ended March 31, 1980, and that criminal legal aid in magistrates' courts amounted to £30m. Legal aid granted for crown court cases is not included in the statistics.

Legal Aid: 30th Annual Reports of the Law Society and of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee (Stationery Office, £5.70).

Medical schools are likely to stay

By Nicholas Timmins

Recommendations in the Flowers report, published last year, which would have closed all or part of three of London's medical schools, will almost certainly not be adopted after the publication yesterday of a report from a London University working party on the cost of medical education.

Figures in the report suggest that closing down a medical school would not produce large-scale savings in the rising cost of medical education

Far greater savings can be made by increasing the ratio of students to staff.

The Flowers report estimated that its proposals would save at least £3m a year. The new figures suggest, however, that savings on undergraduate medical education from the proposals would total only about £700,000.

Closing the King's College preclinical course would actually cost money, while the savings from the closure of the Royal Free course would be minimal.

Although closures cannot yet be ruled out, it is likely that none of the 17 options covered by yesterday's report will be adopted, but the mass of data will be used to construct new options which may well involve closer associations, and possibly long-term mergers between four pairs of medical schools, including the Westminster and Charing Cross.

In addition, the report points out that if St George's Hospital medical school remained at its current numbers, instead of expanding as planned, considerable savings could be made.

Satellite plan by Britain under study

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Plans for a new military satellite communications system, to be brought into operation in 1984 at a cost of £100m, are being examined today by the equipment procurement committee at the Ministry of Defence.

Its recommendations on how the development could be paid for will be passed to the Cabinet for approval

The case for establishing a communications system designed for the British Armed Services, but which can link up with the United States and Nato networks, has been agreed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

However, the needs of the Royal Navy, which would operate the planned Trident missile force, have been a dominant factor in the decision. The Ministry of Defence last launched a satellite exclusively for British military use in 1974. Shortly afterwards the United Kingdom defence communications network was merged into the Nato system.

But that is no longer adequate to cover the range and capacity of communications links required by the Ministry of Defence. Nato satellite are designed for a well defined zone of largely land forces using super-high-frequency radio links.

The new type of system also specifies an ultra-high-frequency band for the shipborne and submarine part of the project,

In brief

Man guilty of 64 driving charges

Michael Tree, an unemployed labourer, of Bushton, Wiltshire, faced 82 motoring charges, including driving without insurance, at Wootton Bassett Magistrates' Court yesterday.

He admitted 57 offences and was found guilty on seven others; the rest were withdrawn by the police or dismissed. He was disqualified from driving for three years, fined a total of £160 for 11 offences and given a two-year conditional discharge on the others.

Tougher action against illegal parkers urged

Stricter measures to curb illegal parking, such as the use of wheel clamps or "bulldogs" on cars, were called for by Greated London Council officials at the Commons Select Committee on Transport yesterday.

Mr Alan Greengross, leader of the council's planning and communications policy committee, said that many motorists parked with impunity. The chance of meeting a policeman was small and even when a fine was issued it was often not paid.

Sunday games opposed

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, said yesterday: "If Sunday football spreads it will mean cancellation of police officers' Sunday leave. We shall be making our views known to the Home Secretary and the football authorities."

Importuning by actor

Peter Dudley, aged 45, an actor in the television series, *Coronation Street*, was fined £200 at Manchester City Magistrates' Court yesterday when he admitted importuning for an immoral purpose in a public lavatory.

Bail for policeman

Police Constable Michael Arthur Pollock, aged 22, was granted bail until April 6 at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday accused of trying to cheat an insurance company of nearly £1,000 by claiming that his car was missing.

TB patient found

A search throughout Britain for a man suffering from highly infectious tuberculosis who discharged himself from hospital ended yesterday when Mr James Cross, a wandering knife-grinder, was found in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

Sleeping policemen

The Government is to support legislation to make it easier for councils to install road humps, known as sleeping policemen, to slow down traffic in areas with a high accident record.

Bus crew cameras

The Barnsley-based Yorkshire Traction Company is planning to spend more than £250,000 on cameras to combat violence against bus crews.

Synod condemns 'racially divisive and inequitable' nationality Bill

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Strong criticism of the Government's nationality Bill was voiced in the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday. A motion referring to it as "racially divisive and socially inequitable" was carried with only one dissenting vote.

That vote effectively commits the Anglican bishops in the House of Lords to oppose the Bill. One synod speaker indicated that the bishops may table amendments to it.

The Rev Martin Leigh, of Derby diocese, summarized feeling against the Bill by declaring: "One can only wonder if the Government have forgotten all they said about the tyranny of the state when they were in opposition." Any nationality Bill needed objective criteria but "this Bill says you are British if the Home Secretary chooses to say you are".

The Provost of Birmingham, the Very Rev Basil Moss, said there was a strong sense of insecurity and anxiety in the minority communities in Britain, which he had experienced as chairman of the largest community relations council in the country.

Some people needing passports would, under the Bill's provisions, have to produce not only their own birth certificates but also those of their parents. They would have to provide evidence of continuous residence, even if they were born in Britain.

Other speakers said the Bill, if enacted, would lead to the creation of hundreds of thousands of stateless citizens and undermine the right of nationality of people who should be entitled to British citizenship.

The ministers responsible for the Bill were not accused of intentional racial discrimination, but it was the synod's general view that the Bill would produce that effect.

Powell protest: Mr Enoch Powell said yesterday that it was unjustifiable for the Bill to impose upon children at birth British citizenship which both parents might ave deliberately eschewed (Our Parliamentary Staff writes).

When the Common committee considering the Bill resumed, Mr Powell, Official Ulster Unionist MP for Down South, described the provision as a "charter for dual nationality" on a large scale, and moved an amendment to delete it.

He said the Bill ensured that a child born in Britain of foreign parents should be a British citizen if its parents were settled here. That was a departure from principles contained in conventions signed as long ago as 1930.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office, opposing theamendment, said it was in the interests of good race relations that children born in Britain of settled parents should be British citizens. Children growing up here should have as strong a sense of security as possible, otherwise Britain would breed trouble for years

The committee adjourned until tomorrow.

Clash with churches: Mr Raison has clashed with the Scottish Churches' Council over the Bill (our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

In a letter replying to their attacks on it, he said: "General blanket criticism, particularly when presented without substantiation, of the Bill may well arouse unnecessary anxieties.

Check on blacks in Civil Service refused

By a Staff Reporter

Bitter disappointment greeted the news yesterday that the Government has rejected the idea of monitoring the number of non-white employees in the Civil Service, as recommended in a report from the Tavistock Institute for Human Relations.

Monitoring is seen by bodies such as the Commission for Racial Equality as crucial in the efforts to eliminate racial discrimination in employment. Unless an equal opportunities policy is monitored there is no way of telling whether it is working, an official said.

Miss Usha Prahar, director of the Runnymede Trust, said the Government's decision was extremely disappointing. Mr Russell Profitt, of the London Standing Conference of Afro-Asian Councilors, said the decision was a betrayal.

Mr John Grant, Labour MP for Islington, Central, and opposition spokesman on employment said the refusal was immensely short-sighted.

More Home News, page 26

In-service teacher training a necessity, HMIs say

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

In-service training of practicing teachers is no longer a luxury but a necessity, the school inspectors (HMIs) say in a discussion document on teacher training in secondary schools published yesterday.

The quality of work in secondary schools throughout the 1980s would depend not so much on the influence of newly trained teachers, important though that was, but on the majority of teachers who were already teaching; and falling pupil numbers combined with spending cuts were making their task increasingly difficult

Closure or amalgamation of schools, reduction of promotion prospects, and an imbalance of staff specialisms within schools might all put strain on teachers' morale, dampen their vitality and enthusiasm for change and development, and strengthen the tendency towards "traditional" styles of teaching, with its over-emphasis on passive learning, note-taking and factual recall.

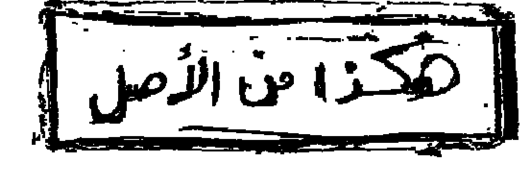
No expansion in resources for in-service training could realistically be expected during the next few years. But the present level of provision of about £60m a year could have a dramatic impact on schools if those resources were accurately directed at the main weaknesses, and if the quality of all courses approached that of the best.

The report speaks with concern of the number of teachers who are inadequately trained in the subject they are teaching, many of whom were operating beyond the limits of their knowledge and competence.

Falling pupil numbers were likely to increase the possibility of teachers' being called on to undertake tasks for which they were not fully equipped in order to prevent the disappearance of a subject from the curriculum.

Almost all subjects had changed substantially since most practising teachers had studied them. There was an urgent need in all such cases for updating and refreshment.

Teacher training and the Secondary School: An HMI Discussion Document (Department of Education and Science, Room 2411, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH; free).



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WEST EUROPE

Two-time loser and Civil War officer in the abortive coup

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Feb 24

The moustachioed colonel who held the Spanish Government—and almost the entire Spanish Congress of Deputies—as hostages during a frontal attack on the post-Franco democracy did so, he said, out of a desire to stamp out terrorism.

Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero Molina, from the tough paramilitary Civil Guard, is a two-time coup loser. He was convicted by court martial a year and a half ago for conspiracy in a plot—"Operation Galaxy"—designed to make the entire Cabinet prisoners at the Prime Minister's residence during an absence abroad of King Juan Carlos. The plot called for the subsequent declaration of a "government of national salvation".

While he was holding more than 300 of the key politicians of Spain as hostages, he said that in his latest effort he wanted the country to be run by a military junta until terrorism could be wiped out.

Because of the intercession of fellow officers after the first attempted coup, the colonel was released from prison and put under house arrest after only one month behind bars. When he was finally brought to trial, he was only given a seven-month jail sentence. Later he and his fellow plotters were allowed to resume their normal duties.

That first coup attempt did not go so far as the present one, but its eventual consequences would have been the same if it had been successful. Colonel Tejero Molina, who apparently likes to state he believes in a hierarchy despite his olympic disregard for the government of the nation, would have been close to the top of the pyramid of power if the *coup had succeeded*.

Perhaps the price the officer had to pay for the first attempted coup was not dear enough to dissuade him from trying again—and on a grander scale.

Colonel Tejero Molina, aged 49, who is reported to have abrogated sole responsibility for the abortive coup (although commonsense suggests that it takes more than one to conspire), was known as a fractious right-wing officer before he began conniving against his civilian superiors.

On July 21, 1978, the Madrid daily *El Imparcial* published an open letter from the colonel to King Juan Carlos on its front page. The letter called for a tough law on terrorism, with "facilities" for the police and "rapid and exemplary punishment for the assassins".

He was reported to have been punished for writing to a publication without permission from his *military* superiors. Subsequently the same newspaper reprinted the letter in August and again in September.

Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch, aged 65, whom Colonel Tejero referred to as his *chief* in the foiled operation, is one of the most hawkish of Spain's active duty generals. But he is an officer who had a flawless professional record.

He was a second lieutenant in the forces led by Colonel Moscardo during the bitter defence of the Alcazar of Toledo during the Spanish Civil War. Later he was a captain in the "Blue Division", which General Franco sent to fight beside Hitler's troops against the Soviet Union.

Close to the time when the "Galaxy" plot came to light, the general was transferred from his post as commander of the proud Brunette armoured division, stationed in the mountains just north of Madrid, to the post of Captain-General—or commanding officer—of the Third Military District, based in Valencia.

There was no evidence to suggest any direct link between the "Galaxy" affair and his new assignment. Observers attributed his involvement in the latest coup attempt rather to a general reshuffle in the Armed Forces, which reflected the more liberal trend

Brave photographers: The dramatic photographs taken of yesterday's seizure of the *Cortes* were the work of Manuel Perez Barriopedro and Manuel Hernández de Leon, working for *EFE*, the Spanish news agency. They smuggled the film out in their clothing.



General Milans del Bosch: fought in Russia.



A civil guard abandons the rebellion by climbing out of a parliament window and into custody.

The Ten alarmed by threat to democracy in Madrid

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Feb 24

The gunshots fired yesterday into the ceiling of the Cortes (Parliament) by rebel members of the Spanish Civil Guard set political alarm bells ringing throughout the EEC.

Relief at today's news that the incident had ended peacefully did not entirely erase the concern caused by so dramatic a demonstration of the fragility of Spain's still infant democracy.

Spain applied to join the EEC *in 1977* and since the *beginning* of 1979 has been in negotiation with the European Commission on its terms of entry, which Madrid is hoping to achieve during 1984.

A Commission spokesman said this morning that Brussels was confident, after two years of close contacts with Spanish officials, parliamentarians and trade unionists, that "yesterday's episode of violence constitutes no more than an accident which will not affect the process of Spain's integration (into the Community)".

Entry negotiations were opened with Spain and Portugal on the implicit understanding that a democratic, pluralist *political* system was an *indispensable political qualification*

There is no precedent, nor formal constitutional machinery, for dealing with a member-state which has ceased to be governed democratically.

Remarkable harmony on butter agreement

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 24

In a remarkable outbreak of harmony, EEC Agricultural Ministers agreed in principle here tonight on a new deal for exports of *New* Zealand butter to Britain and settled a number of other issues that had defied solution for many months.

The agreement was tempered only by the reservation of the Italians on one aspect of the complex inter-linked deal. The strength of the Italian objection was not immediately clear, but the Italian minister promised to give his Government's final answer by March 10.

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, said he was "delighted" by this outcome, which came after surprising concessions by M Pierre Méhaignerie, his French colleague, who had earlier taken a particularly tough line over New Zealand butter.

The change in the French attitude was thought to have been *motivated* by a desire to clear the decks of outstanding issues and leave the ministers free to *devote* their attention over the next month to the *annual* farm *price fixing negotiations*.

The French Government is haunted by a nightmare vision of discontented farmers taking to the streets in the weeks before the presidential election at the end of April. Paris thus wants agreement on farm price increases by early next month, which on past experience would be something of a record.

In their first formal exchange of views today on farm prices, an *overwhelming* majority of the ministers rejected the average 7.8 *per* cent increase proposed by the European Commission for 1981-82 as far too low, given the inflation in farmers' costs.

Only Mr Walker and Herr Josef Ertl, the West German minister, appeared to accept the Commission's proposal though with qualifications.

Other measures agreed tonight will release some £60m of aid for modernizing farming and fisheries and improving marketing techniques, in Northern Ireland and the Western Isles, of which between 40 and 50 per cent will be financed from EEC funds.

The ministers also agreed on a new sugar regime which gives Britain a total production quota of 1,144,000 tonnes.

Mr Gerrit Braks, the Dutch minister who chaired the meeting, said afterwards that the *ministers would meet again on* March 16, 23, 30 and 31 in the hope of reaching agreement on new EEC farm *prices* by the start of the marketing year on April 1.

Worker at the 'Giscard coal face' is urged to break his silence

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 24

Only a few weeks ago M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, was very much in the front line of the political fray—doggedly defending the Government's economic policy for the past four-and-a-half years.

With his customary *indestructible self-confidence*, he proclaimed that there was no valid alternative. Hardly a day went by when he was not heard to make some public pronouncement.

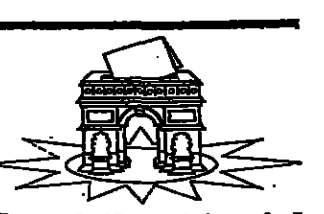
He manned all the battlements and repeatedly rallied the defenders of the besieged Giscardian fortress. But since January 20, he has been strangely quiescent and has kept to himself while the electoral controversy has grown increasingly *strident*.

He was not even stirred from his determined silence by the telling blows of M Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, at the two most conspicuous Barre failures—inflation and unemployment—and his advocacy of drastic cuts in government spending and vigorous policy of industrial investment.

The reason is obvious. The strategists of the Elysée and of the Giscard group had come to the conclusion that the Prime Minister's consistency poor *public image, which has further* deteriorated in the past month (if opinion polls are to be believed), has harmed the President's own.

M Barre had ceased to be effective as the shield of M Giscard d'Estaing, a thankless role he has played selflessly and consistently since he took office in August, 1976, even to the point of priding himself on his unpopularity.

He saw himself as working at the coal face, leaving the President free to concentrate on higher things, both at home and abroad.



But the Government's economic record has proved more and more to be the favourite angle of attack of the contenders for the presidency—whether from party supporters or from the opposition.

In a regime where ultimately everything is decided by the President, the Prime Minister—*at least in the eyes of opponents*—is reduced to the role of a chief of staff. The blame for the Government's economic shortcomings is being laid more and more at M Giscard d'Estaing's door.

So M Barre was bidden to withdraw from the front line, and, respectful as he has always been of the spirit of the institutions of the Fifth Republic, he did as he was told.

"Please keep away from me anything which might have an electoral flavour", he told reporters who followed him to Lyons last Friday to obtain his reactions to M Chirac's strictures.

This attitude was in marked contrast to his wholehearted involvement in the parliamentary election campaign when the walls of Paris and leading provincial towns were plastered with large posters proclaiming: "Barre, confidence." Ministers now barely mention his name in their speeches.

Yesterday, the Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting at Rambouillet, near Paris, to take stock of the action taken by the Government on 29 policy priorities, earmarked by M Barre last November, which the President wished to be implemented before the end of his first term in office.

At the close of it, M Barre was silent. It was M Giscard d'Estaing who declared, in *words taken straight out of his* Prime Minister's repertory:

"All the priority measures decided by the Government have been implemented, and what the Government has promised has been carried out. These measures are detrimental neither to the budget nor the currency, for the defence of the budget and the currency is a fundamental condition of the battle for economic activity and employment."

But now, according to the independent left-wing *Le Matin*, the strategists of the Giscard group are beginning to have second thoughts. M Chirac's indictment of the Government's economic policy has made a deep impression on public opinion.

Someone, it is felt, should take the mayor down a peg. The President cannot do so without loss of dignity—and who better therefore than M Barre, who could claim the right of reply.

It remains to be seen whether *he will be willing to emerge* from a silence, which, all things considered, suits him well. For he has his own political future to think of, even though he always denies he has any presidential ambitions; and it is not at all impossible that, in an emergency, the country might turn to him.

M Laurent Fabius, the Socialist Party spokesman, said yesterday that the Government's record was negative; that the President had not kept his promises; and that the extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers was purely intended to fake this record.

Socialists launch newspaper in France

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Feb 24

The birth of a new party newspaper in France, at a time when there are practically none left apart from the communist *L'Humanité* and those ordinary dailies that have survived are threatened with disappearance, is at best an act of faith, at worst a piece of folly.

The Socialist Party is not wanting the first; its enemies would say it has also a good dose of the second; but the fact is that today, for the first time in 14 years since the demise of the old *Populaire*, it can boast once again of a daily of its own.

The first issue of *Combat Socialiste* came out today. The newspaper was not spared prolonged birth pangs, and its future is by no means assured; but at least it exists. The tentative plan for a new socialist organ was announced nearly a year ago, on the ground that the Socialist Party, having become the largest party in France, was fully capable of supporting a daily newspaper.

But even within socialist ranks, opinions were divided on the merits of the venture. M Claude Germon, a member of the party's national secretariat, prevailed in the end. Publication of the first issue, originally scheduled for January 26, was however, postponed.

The first issue has had a *printing run of 100,000*. M Germon says he has 13,000 regular subscribers; his objective is 25,000, and kiosk and bookstall sales of another 10,000.

The editorial staff is made up of 26 journalists, under the editorship of M Claude Gault, the former editor-in-chief of *Temoignage Chrétien*, the Roman Catholic weekly. *Combat Socialiste* is a 16-page tabloid divided into six sections—politics, foreign, economic and social, culture, sports and society.

The first issue contains an interview on unemployment with M François Mitterrand, the socialist candidate in the presidential elections.

He says: "Unemployment is a real bloodletting for the country. It puts everything at stake. *Already the standard of* living. In the longer run, national independence and public safety will be undermined if an end is not put to this haemorrhage."

OVERSEAS

Moscow criticism of Italian and Spanish communists

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 24

As the Soviet Communist Party Congress began hearing speeches from leading foreign communists on its second day, a Politburo member criticized *Eurocommunist parties*, accusing them of damaging the world revolutionary process and the interests of their peoples.

In a clear reference to the *Spanish and Italian parties*, which have sent only low-level delegations, Mr Vladimir Shcherbitsky, party secretary of the Ukraine, called on all parties to support Moscow in the face of threats from the West.

His criticism of Eurocommunism echoes that issued yesterday by President Brezhnev in his opening address to the 5,000 delegates, in which he accused parties opposing Soviet policies of helping imperialist propaganda.

The Soviet leader said the Russians welcomed "comradely, constructive" criticism, but were categorically opposed to criticism that distorted socialist reality and, wittingly or unwittingly helped their class opponents.

As further evidence that his words were intended especially for the Italians and Spaniards, he pointedly omitted them from a list of foreign parties with which he said Moscow had good relations.

Criticism of Soviet policy would be more acceptable if it was voiced privately. "When communists fight for the common revolutionary cause, we believe that patient comradely discussion of differing views *and positions serves their common aim best of all*", Mr Brezhnev said.

The Soviet leader's remarks were broadcast to the nation in *a long report* on the opening day's proceedings on Soviet television in the evening. The 100-minute broadcast, ending speculation that the 74-year-old leader did not himself read all his speech, showed him addressing the delegates in a firm voice, though he occasionally stumbled over his words and spoke extremely slowly. The full text of his speech was reproduced in all Soviet papers today.

Meanwhile, foreign diplomats have been analysing Mr Brezhnev's offer of a summit conference with President Reagan and other foreign policy initiatives. The Russians have been closely studying his remarks on the domestic situation, which took up two-thirds of his lengthy report.

Most agreed that he was remarkably frank in outlining the difficulties facing the Soviet economy and the worries voiced by ordinary people in recent years. However, he gave few hints of any changes in policy and no indication that the Russians had any intention *of carrying out new economic* reforms.

He said the period since the party congress in 1976 had not been easy: There had been many *difficulties* in the country's development, though he asserted that the party's economic strategy was correct.

In spite of the growth of industry, incomes, the mechanization of agriculture and other achievements, much needed to done. The main priority, he said, was the supply of consumer goods and food, especially meat.

In the next five years meat production would rise by three million tons to more than 18 million and every peasant and farmer was urged to do his bit. Mr Brezhnev spoke of the importance of private agriculture, but said that the state was not going to continue spending huge sums on state agriculture without a better return on its investments.

On consumer goods, he said the plan for their output was unfulfilled year after year. It was now the party's prime *requirement to improve* this, and to show "concrete concern for the concrete person" by expanding consumer services also.

He had harsh words for poor management, and hinted that tough new penalties would be brought in to stop what he admitted was the widespread downward revision of state plans to allow workers to earn unmerited bonuses.

He criticized the poor use of existing plant in industry and the waste of raw materials, and launched a new slogan: "The economy must be economical." Machines should be *used more intensively*, fuel and energy more sparingly, and the extracting industries should be more efficient.

No economic reforms or new plans were proposed to boost labour productivity which Mr Brezhnev said was vital, but he said better labour discipline was essential. Science had to help industry, and innovations should be put into practice more rapidly. The Russians should also stop buying things from abroad that they could make perfectly well at home.

The Soviet leader touched on the sensitive subject of nationalism in the Soviet Union. He praised the Russian people for their "disinterested assistance" to vast areas of Central Asia, but in a significant concession to growing Russian nationalism, noted that large areas of the Russian Republic had fallen behind in development, and help for this area was an urgent priority.

In other republics, he said, the party was against obliterating national identities, but would not permit their "artificial inflation".

On ideology, Mr Brezhnev was forthright in condemning weak political education and unconvincing propaganda. He spoke of the boredom of modern youth. "Have not forms of our mass political work become too fossilized? After all, it is one thing to address people who have little education, and another to speak to the present-day Soviet citizen."

He said propaganda should avoid stereotyped phrases and verbiage. Above all it should not shun sensitive issues or be afraid of difficult questions. It was also essential that criticism should not be "persecuted".

Regarding the arts, he called for serious thought-provoking works, but hinted at a crackdown on any dissenting writings or paintings that strayed from the party line and "discredit our Soviet reality". He added: "The party was not and can never be indifferent to *the ideological orientation of* our art".

Mr Brezhnev had words of praise for the KGB security police for stopping anti-government actions, and warnings for black marketeers, speculators, and especially for doctors and medical assistants, who had abused the health system and neglected their duties.

Finally, he called for a revision of the party's programme, which he said was now out of date. That programme, *drawn* up 20 years ago by Nikita Khrushchev, is something of an embarrassment because of its forecasts that the Soviet Union would have overtaken *capitalism* by now. Mr Brezhnev said a new programme should establish, only principles, as it was impossible and inappropriate to foretell particulars.

Polish leader pledges way will be barred to 'counter-revolution'

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, Feb 24

Mr Stanislaw Kania, the Polish Party Secretary, today thanked the Russians for their *understanding* in his country's crisis, but told them that Poland had the strength and will to prevent counter-revolution in the country.

Addressing delegates on the second day of the Soviet Communist Party Congress, Mr Kania gave full backing to President Brezhnev's assertion that the defence of Communism in Poland was the concern of all fellow-communist countries—the so-called Brezhnev Doctrine.

But in a clear plea for more time and patience from Poland's anxious neighbours, he said the country would solve its prob*lems in the spirit of socialism* and in the interests of all its allies

He said his Government was not blind to the openly counter-revolutionary forces in the country which were backed by imperialism. But in what appeared to be a rebuke to hardliners in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, he said the Polish party had decided to seek a political solution to the social conflict and to restore the confidence of society in the people's power.

It was not socialism that had led to Poland's difficulties, he added, but the violation of its principles and the disregard of it economic laws and Leninist *norms, and the neglect of ideological work.*

He reassured his Soviet hosts that the Polish-Soviet alliance would always be a basic principle of *Polish foreign policy.* Dessa Trevisan writes from Warsaw: The speech confirms the line which the Polish leadership has taken in recent weeks. It is determined to reach settlements by negotiation and agreement. But externally it intends to reinforce economic and political integration within the Warsaw Pact and Comecon.

Defeat for radicals in Kuwait election

Kuwait, Feb 24.—Conservative, pro-Government candidates won a landslide victory today in Kuwait's parliamentary election. The result was a resounding defeat for radical *Arab nationalist politicians* and supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader.

The election results, which are believed to reflect popular *Arab opinion throughout the* Gulf oil states, were interpreted by analysts as a demand for gradualist, pro-Western and conservative government at a time *when* the region is being buffeted by revolution and war.

The winners in yesterday's voting for the 50-seat National Assembly were announced early today, after the ballots from 25 constituencies were tabulated.

In accordance with the constitution, the three-year-old Government led by Mr Saad Abdullah al-Salem al-Sabah, the Prime Minister, tendered its resignation to Shaikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, the Emir. The Emir asked the ministers *to remain in their posts while* consultations were held to form a new Government.

The voting produced two surprises. The first was the total *defeat of the radical Arab* nationalist candidates led by Dr Ahmed al-Khatib, whose movement dominated Kuwaiti parliament life in the 1960s and 1970s.

The other was the poor showing of the Shia candidates inspired by Ayatollah Khomeini's revolution. Shias make up *about 39 per cent of the* Kuwaiti male population.—UPI.

67 nations discuss how to regulate trade in animals

Elephants feet become waste bins

From Trevor Fishlock
Delhi, Feb 24

An extraordinary and poignant photograph is being shown at a *wildlife* conference here. It shows dozens of hacked-off elephants' feet drying in rows in the African sun. Once dried, these feet are sold to tourists *as wastepaper baskets.*

Another photograph shows a butcher in Germany, evidently specializing in exotic meats, displaying a deep-frozen tiger *and crocodiles Yet another* shows a rotting gorilla, killed in central Africa for the sake of its skull.

The trade in limbs, skins, juices and other bits of wild animals, as well as in live animals and birds, has increased greatly in recent years. In a number of countries it has become a significant business.

West Germany, for example, imported wildlife products worth £21m last year. In some countries rhinoceros horn; sold to suggestible men who believe *it to have aphrodisiac properties,* fetches £4,500 a *kilogram.*

Elephants are still slaughtered in their thousands to meet the demands of ivory traders. About five million crocodiles are being killed every year for their fashionable skins.

The trade in exotic, fashionable and sometimes useful wild animal products is being discussed in the next 10 days at the third conference of signatories to the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and Flora (Cites).

This is perhaps the largest gathering of wildlife experts and of people involved in the trade in wild animals. Sixty-seven countries and more than 100 wildlife organizations are represented.

Because Cites seeks to regulate the wild animal trade, as *well as to ban the hunting of* threatened species, the conference is an important meeting place for conservationists and for those with a vested interest in pelts, ivory, whale oil, animal souvenirs and the sale of a variety of creatures from parrots to bobcats.

The conference will consider proposals to extend the lists drawn up by Cites, which ban or strictly control the hunting or collecting of certain fauna and flora.

West Germany is trying to have the hunting of three kinds of whale—sperm, sei and fin—outlawed. If accepted, this could put pressure on the International Whaling Commission to end its practice of allowing hunting quotas on these species.

Outcry over 'handouts' term for aid

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The use of the term "handouts" by the Prime Minister in speaking in the Commons yesterday of Britain's overseas aid provoked protests among Labour MPs *and some shock* among Conservative backbenchers.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher acknowledged the protests and *explained she had meant* "aid, gifts, loans, anything that helps".

She had said: "It would be a nice position if one were to be *able to make enormous* handouts for overseas aid". But noting that this year's total government aid was £960m she *said that, with the tremendous* burden on the Exchequer, she believed "we must give our own people priority first".

She disclosed that more than 1,300 *representations had been* received by the Government urging an increase in foreign aid since cuts were announced in last April's budget. The *£960m total for the financial* year 1980-81 compares with £891m for the calendar year of 1979—a cut in "real" terms.

Conservative backbenchers privately complaining afterwards, suggested that Mrs Thatcher's remark disclosed her true attitude towards overseas aid.

Mr Ted Rowlands, MP for Merthyr Tydfil, who was Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for three years in the Labour Government, said last night: "Mrs Thatcher's reference to handouts is an utter disgrace. It will do irreparable damage to Commonwealth relations and to the whole of our trade with Third World countries. She does not realize how closely these countries follow everything that is said in the Commons."

Last-minute hint that Britons may not be freed

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, Feb 24

Three British missionaries were expected to fly to Europe from Iran tomorrow, free for the first time in six months. But the word on everyone's lips was "*Inshallah*" ("God willing").

They are expected to board a scheduled Iran Air flight to Istanbul, Frankfurt and Paris which leaves Tehran at 12.30 pm (9 am GMT).

A brief comment by Hojatoleslam Ali Ghoddusi, the Revolutionary Prosecutor-General, in an interview with state radio and television cast a last-minute cloud over the hopes of their release. He indicated that *although there was* no legal obstacle to their freedom, the Iranian Government might still hold them while insisting that Britain also *freed two Iranians* jailed in London.

Talk that such an exchange was being pressed by the Iranians has previously been *strongly* denied by the British authorities and diplomatic sources insisted today that it had never been brought up in discussions.

The Prosecutor-General said the Britons—Dr John Coleman, his wife Dr Audrey Coleman and Miss Jean Waddell—could be released "if there are no problems in respect to the relations between the two Governments".

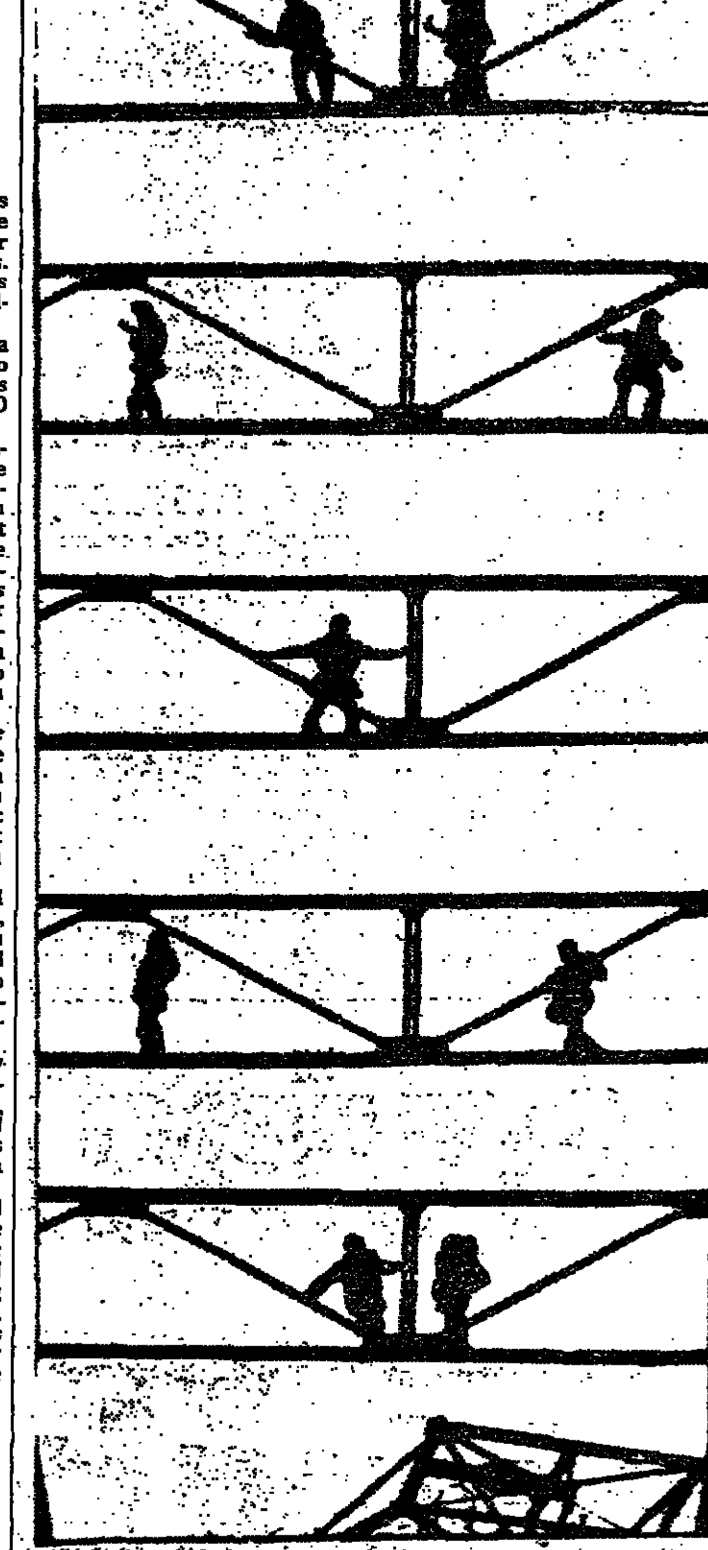
He said that although legally free on the basis of the documents brought against them, which an Iranian has admitted forging, the three missionaries were not without guilt in a general sense.

Interviewed by the official Pars *news agency today the* three Anglicans reaffirmed that they had been treated very well

The Colemans will be leaving Iran extremely reluctantly. *Having lived here for 32 years* they now regard it as their home and had asked to be allowed to stay.

Diplomatic sources said rep*resentatives were made to* Iranian officials today concerning a fourth jailed Briton, Mr Andrew Pyke, a businessman. The representations had borne no fruit, the sources said.

The Prosecutor-General allegedly said Mr Pyke would be put on trial on charges of espionage and embezzlement from the Helicopter Aviantion Services company that he ran in Tehran.



Silhouettes of workers building a huge hydro-electric scheme at Kurpsai in the Soviet Union.

Détente key issue in Thatcher US talks

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Three main issues will dominate the agenda of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's talks with President Reagan at the White House tomorrow: East-West relations, which are at a particularly sensitive stage; the Middle East, including the Gulf war; and *southern Africa, notably* Namibia.

To this will be added a fourth item, of special interest to the Americans; the crisis in El Salvador.

Mrs Thatcher, who is accompanied by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, flies from London today, making the first visit by a European leader to Washington since President Reagan took office. Mr Thatcher is going with her and her daughter Carol will join them in Washington.

The time which the Prime Minister and the President will actually *spend* in their main session of talks is only two hours, though the programme *is crowded.*

The main purpose of the meeting is for the two leaders to get a sense of each other's views, rather than go into the *issues in depth. From that point* of view, the Prime Minister and her advisers are in no doubt that a great deal can be done in the time. In addition, there will be *formal dinners* at the White House tomorrow evening and at the British Embassy on Friday, in honour of President Reagan.

Mrs Thatcher will also meet *Congressional leaders,* and make two keynote speeches, one on Anglo-American relations at Georgetown University, and one on East-West relations in New York, *before flying home on* Saturday night.

These speeches are seen by the Prime Minister, together with her recent address to the *Pilgrims' dinner in London,* as forming a comprehensive statement of her approach to foreign policy.

Lord Carrington, who will join her for the White House talks, will have separate meetings with Mr Haig, the Secretary of State, at which the whole range of foreign affairs will be discussed.

As seen from London, the new Administration is still in the process of forming its views on most subjects. Its general line on détente and East-West relations is beginning to emerge.

Israeli leader uses remark by Mr Reagan to justify Jewish settlements

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Feb 24

Mr Menachem Begin, *the* Israeli Prime Minister, today cited a recent statement by President Reagan to justify his Government's continuing policy of expanding settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Mr Begin's remarks have come after a series of angry diplomatic messages to Washington from Arab leaders about the apparent change signalled by the new President in America's attitude towards the West Bank settlements.

Addressing the annual meeting of the Foreign Press Association, Mr Begin said that Israel would continue with its plans to build 10 *new* settlements in the occupied territories before the June elections. accelerated settlement plans.

He openly criticized Mr Reagan for referring to the occupied territory in question as "The West Bank", claiming that its historical name was "Judea and Samaria"—the term which the Israelis now in*sist on describing the land con*quered in the Six-Day War.

The Prime Minister was answering a question from an American reporter about a local press report, stating that more than £2m had been set aside in the 1981 budget to accommodate the accelerated settlement plans.

The figure had aroused bitter criticism because of the Cabinet's declared intention to cut public spending in an effort to reduce inflation from its present rate of 140 per cent.

Referring pointedly to a recent much-publicized remark—in Mr Reagan's statement that the new Jewish settlements were "not illegal"—Mr Begin said: "As he used the double negative, of course the result is positive, they are legal. We always believed it. They are legal, legitimate and also an integral part of our national security".

CND emissary in US will oppose Thatcher line

By Ian Bradley

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) is sending one of its leading members to the United States to present the case against nuclear weapons during Mrs Thatcher's visit to President Reagan.

Mrs Joan Ruddock, a mem*ber of CND's national council* and coordinator of the Newbury Campaign against Cruise Missiles, is flying to Washington tomorrow.

On *Friday, while the Prime* Minister is making a speech at Georgetown University, Mrs Ruddock will give a press conference under the auspices of the *Institute of Policy Studies in* Washington.

She said yesterday: "Mrs Thatcher will be in America to show the amount of support *that the British Government is* prepared to give to Mr Reagan's policy of increasing the nuclear arms build-up.

"I want to make clear to the *Americans that while that may* be the Government's view, it is not the view of the British population. *Polls* show that at least half the population is now opposed to having nuclear weapons in Britain at *all.*

"I also want to make clear what it is like to live in an overcrowded Europe with nowhere to escape if the bomb *does fall.*"

Mgr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, said that a poll at the end of last year showed that 56 per cent of the *public were opposed to the sit*ing of American cruise missiles in Britain and 59 per cent opposed the Government's decision to purchase the Trident *system*

He has invited Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, to take part in a public debate on nuclear weapons. The Min*istry of Defence said yesterday* that it was aware of the invitation but no response had yet been made by the minister.

Mr Nott will be opening a Commons debate on the *Trident* purchase on March 3.

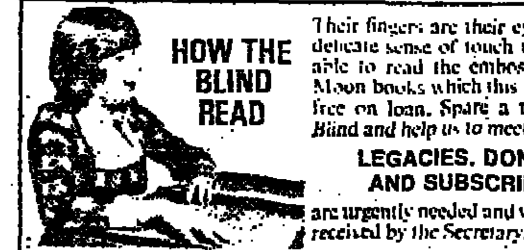
Haig inquiry is dropped

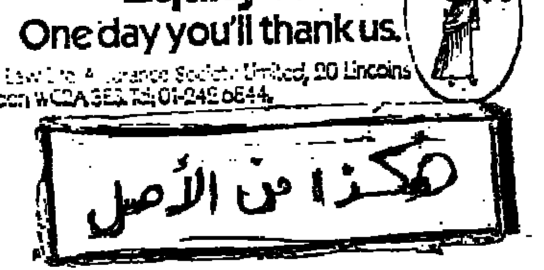
From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Feb 24

The Senate today effectively abandoned its attempt to obtain information about the possible involvement of Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, in the Watergate affair, thereby removing the final question mark over the former Nato commander's suitability for the senior post in President Reagan's cabinet.

By a vote of eight to five the Senate foreign relations committee decided that it was not in the American national interest to pursue Mr Haig's role in the Watergate controversy

During its confirmation hearings last month, the committee had decided to subpoena a list of the tape recordings involving Mr Haig's conversations with former President Nixon during the final weeks of the Watergate scandal. But Mr Nixon resisted the publication of the tapes. This objection effectively blocked the release of the list of the tapes without a lengthy court battle.





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OVERSEAS

EEC expected to send aid to civil war victims in El Salvador

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 24

The EEC is expected to dispatch a £1.3m package of emergency food and relief aid to El Salvador early next month, subject to assurances from the International Red Cross that the aid will not fall into the hands of left-wing guerrillas.

The aid is intended for refugees who have fled their homes because of the civil war in El Salvador.

An 11-man mission from the International Red Cross, which is coordinating the work of Western relief agencies in El Salvador, is investigating conditions in the Central American country, and is expected to report its findings in about a week's time.

The Red Cross team was to have been sent to El Salvador anyway, but its dispatch was hastened because of the pressure put on the EEC by the United States to show that humanitarian aid would not be channelled to anti-government forces.

The American view was put forcefully by Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, President Reagan's special envoy, during a tour of EEC capitals last week. He also brought with him what was described as "hard evidence" of Soviet, Cuban and other communist involvement in the supply of arms to the Salvadorean guerrillas.

EEC foreign ministers decided at a meeting in Brussels last week to postpone a decision on the aid for El Salvador to give time for consideration of Mr Eagleburger's representations.

The American evidence on arms supplies appears to have impressed EEC governments. In Washington yesterday Mr Jean François-Poncet, the French Foreign Minister, conceded "the existence beyond any possible doubt of an important arms traffic to El Salvador via Nicaragua".

The British Government, though without any independent evidence of its own, accepts that communist arms have been reaching guerrillas in El Salvador and shares American concern about the spread of Soviet and Cuban involvement.

The Foreign Office has also gone out of its way to counter suggestions that Mr Eagleburger's representations had been resented as an intrusion into EEC affairs. "We see (his) visit as a further expression of the readiness of the United States Administration to consult their allies", a spokesman said.

However, EEC governments want to see a political solution in El Salvador and would certainly not want to get involved in direct support for the ruling regime, whose brutal repression is seen as the prime cause of the left-wing insurrection.

The Ten are confident that the European aid—mainly food and medical supplies—can be channelled safely via the Red Cross to those for whom it is intended—the civil war victims.

Hiroshima is symbol for world, says the Pope

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Feb 24

The Pope today met Emperor Hirohito, once regarded by the Japanese as their god-king. The Emperor reigned over Japan during the Second World War, and at an open air Mass in a baseball stadium here, the Pope invoked the name of Hiroshima, the atomic-bombed city, to make an emotional appeal for world peace.

The spiritual leader of the *Catholic Church and the former* god-king met for the first time today at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

This was the first meeting in the history of the Catholic Church between a Pope and a Japanese emperor from a dynasty deified as gods for 2,000 years until the end of the war.

During the protracted 50-minute meeting Japan's 79-year-old emperor told the Pope that Japan owed much to the Catholic Church because the first Catholic mission introduced Japan to European civilization. "I also have to thank the Catholic Church for its charitable work during the hard times at the end of the war," the Emperor said.

The Pope replied that he admired Japan as a country which placed a heavy emphasis on moral justice: "I hope that there will be greater exchanges between Japan and European countries, not only in the material field, but also in the spiritual field".

Conducting an open-air Mass in Japanese for 38,000 Catholics in the Korakuen Baseball stadium later, the Pope declared that the name Hiroshima should be used as an international symbol for peace.

Delivering his homily to the congregation as light rain fell over Tokyo, the Pope said: "I have set foot on the land that has known the special horror of destruction during the last war. The name of the Japanese city of Hiroshima has become a symbol of the threats towards which the whole of humanity is moving. If it does not succeed in overcoming the terrible temptation to dominate others by means of all-out nuclear destruction.

"Here, where the memory and signs of the explosion of the first atomic bomb are living and obvious, the words of Christ cannot fail to take on a particular vividness: Peace be with you.

"These words must become a challenge. They must reecho all the horrors of the final warning," the Pope said.

He will travel to Hiroshima tomorrow to pray for world peace at the site of epicentre of the atomic bomb,



Tokyo police plugging the loudspeakers of a lorry belonging to right-wingers who are demonstrating against the Pope during his four-day visit to Japan.

S Africa may recruit British teachers

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Feb 24

A campaign to recruit teachers in Britain for South African schools for whites is being considered by the South African Government.

The shortage of teachers, particularly in the Transvaal, the most populous province, is said to have reached the point of crisis and Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister of National Education, has said that an overseas recruitment programme is worth considering.

Teachers are needed particularly for mathematics and science classes in English-language schools. Mr Jack Ballard, general secretary of the Transvaal Teachers' Association, which represents teachers in English-language schools, said there had been 5,000 resignations last year, most of them in English schools but Afrikaans-language schools were "also feeling the pinch".

The spate of resignations has been caused by mounting discontent over working conditions and pay and aggravated by lucrative offers from commerce, which is competing fiercely in booming economic conditions for academically qualified people.

Last week, in a pre-general election mini-budget, teachers were awarded 20 per cent pay rises.

Mr Ballard said today that his association had long advocated the recruitment of teachers abroad, particularly in Britain, where teacher training was more closely aligned to the South African system, than in other English-speaking countries such as the United States and Australia.

But he foresaw difficulties. With the new pay rises, qualified teachers could expect to earn between 7,000 and 13,000 rands a year (between £4,000 and £7,430. Mr Ballard felt that despite the difference in living costs, South African scales might not prove attractive enough.

He also felt that the National Union of Teachers in Britain might oppose recruitment on the ground that it would be aiding a system which applies apartheid in schools.

Mr Ballard said that the shortage of teachers in white schools, particularly in English-language schools, was critical enough. The shortage of qualified people to teach black pupils is enormous.

Dr Viljoen said that overseas recruitment had been discussed with provincial authorities, and despite some reservations he felt the plan should proceed provided there was discrimination against South African teachers. It was important to ensure that the principles of "Christian nationalism" embodied in the South African education system were not endangered.

He added that to win promotion teachers recruited abroad would have to learn Afrikaans.

Mr Ballard said that despite the difficulties the plan should go ahead as it would "enrich the whole system."

"If a desperate situation requires some extra means they should be employed to get the teachers here. There is a great need for them."

US seeks support over Cuban intervention

y David Spanier
iplomatic Correspondent

American policy towards El ilvador has been clarified in irther contacts between State epartment officials and the oreign Office yesterday. The lks were a follow-up to last eek's visit of Mr Lawrence igleburger, the designated sistant Secretary for Europe.

The main American objective, cording to Mr Herman Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary of ate, is to mobilize international support against Cuban tervention in El Salvador, upled with a renewed attempt o promote a dialogue between e democratic forces in El lvador".

Mr Cohen said in London yesrday that the Administration uld be particularly pleased Mrs Margaret Thatcher clared foreign intervention El Salvador to be unacceptle. The situation in El Salvar will, in fact, be one of the in subjects discussed during r talks with President agan at the White House norrow, it emerged yesterv.

Mr Cohen left no doubt that United States was taking a ich more positive view of the esent regime in El Salvador in the usual assessment in ndon.

"Some people feel the Government has lost its popular base," he said. "We feel it retains it. There is a considerable amount of support from democratic elements." While admitting that the Government had "narrowed", Mr Cohen cited younger Army officers and civilians who held democratic views, and said that President Duarte had legitimacy conferred on him by his previous election.

In the American view, the El Salvador regime is pursuing a constructive programme, including land reform with its direct help to the peasants, and wide economic and social development, in the difficult circumstances of attacks from the extreme right and extreme left. Accordingly, these democratic forces deserved support.

The Foreign Office is studying the mass of documentation supplied by the Americans on Cuban involvement, in preparation of the talks in Washington.

"We want to make sure that the true picture of El Salvador is known", Mr Cohen added, explaining the purpose of his mission. "he pressure against outside intervention should be applied in the right direction, which means against Cuba." It was not the United States which was intervening militarily, he said, though noting that no options were closed.

;reeks turn way ;oviet navy

om Morio Modiaro
hens, Feb 24

A state-controlled Greek shipd whose ship repair arrangents with the Soviet Union used raised eyebrows in to and Washington in Sepnber, 1979, is now offering Russians a renewed agreeent for 1981 on condition that will exclude Soviet naval oply vessels.

The original agreement ned between Neorion shiprd on the Aegean island of ros, and Sudoimport, a Soviet te organization, provided for pair of both merchant ships d unarmed fleet supply ssels.

The arrangement angered to because it enabled the viet Union to extend the tour duty of auviliary vessels of Soviet fleet in the Mediterean, which would otherwise ve ben forced to go to Black a yards for repairs.

At the time differences had sen over the militory reintetion of Greece in the Nato iance. Momentarily it was spected that the shipyard reement was a ploy to exert ssur eon the West, but it came clear later that comrcial considerations had tivated the Greeks.

Under the earlier agreement, orion Shipyard received for pairs about a dozen Soviet ps of which two or three re fleet supply vessels. They re admitted after the green ht was given by the Greek fence Ministry.

In view of Nato's reactions, en Greece rejoined the mili y arm of the alliance last tober, it was decided not to admit Soviet naval supply sels for repairs.

The Soviet organization has en told that the renewal will valid only for merchant ps. The Russians have not cealed their displeasure, but ir reply is still awaited.

In brief

UN plane was overloaded

Nairobi, Feb 24.—Tanzanian aviation authorities said a light *aircraft which crashed* on December 5, killing 10 people, including eight senior United Nations officials, was overloaded. Pilot error, broken instruments, and bad weather were also cited as reasons for the crash.

Eight shot dead

Managua, Feb 24.—At least four police and four English-speaking separatists died after exchanges of gunfire in Nicaragua's eastern province of Zelaya, a high-ranking government official said.

Train crash kills three

Bangkok, Feb 24.—Three people were killed and at least seven injured when a Bangkok-bound passenger train was derailed in the southern Thai province of Surat Thani yesterday.

Boiler explodes

Tokyo, Feb 24.—One person was killed and several others injured when an engine room boiler in the 1,700-ton Japanese destroyer Yukikaze exploded while the ship was on a test run at the entrance to Tokyo Bay.

Korchnoi gambit

Hongkong, Feb 24.—Viktor Korchnoi, the exiled Soviet grand-master, said here that he is to lead an international chess team on a tour of China next month.

Rocket blows up

Stuttgart, Feb 24.—A United States military transporter carrying a rocket caught fire and blew up outside the village of Sechselberg near here. No one was hurt.

3omb wired to ANC car

om Our Correspondent
lisbury, Feb 24

A bomb was discovered in a lisbury suburb under a car longing to the representative re of the African National ngress, the nationalist organiion banned in South Africa, lice have disclosed.

The bomb, made up of about lb of TNT, was wired to explode if the car was moved, a police spokesman said.

The car, belonging to Mr Joel Gcabi, was parked in the garage of a house occupied by a family who have left South Africa. Mr Gcabi left Salisbury last week and has not returned.

The device is believed to have been placed under the car at the weekend

OVERSEAS

Poll setback renews doubts over Hayden role

From Douglas Aiton
Melbourne, Feb 24

The weekend's three by-election results have focused attention not so much to the Government's triumph, but more on the poor performance of the Labour Party.

Labour polled badly in all three, even though it increased *its percentage of* the vote in Curtin, the Western Australian seat. The explanation of Mr William Hayden, the Labour leader, *that the Liberals did so* well in the other two seats simply because they spent significantly more money has a thin ring to it. It has been said many times before and it was not mentioned by Mr Hayden during the campaigns.

Inevitably, the question of the Labour leadership has yet again been brought up, even before the vote-counting had been completed. Many pundits are now wondering whether Mr Robert Hawke, the former union leader, is going to make *his bid* for the Labour leadership before the 1983 general election.

Already, within a day of the *by-elections, it is being widely* suggested that now would be as good a time as any for Mr Hawke to do so.

The arguments are well worn, but convincing. For many years, according to the opinion polls, Mr Hawke has been the *most respected* and popular political figure in the country. He has hitherto been hampered by the fact that he was not officially a politician, but more a trouble-shooter during his 10 years as president of the Australian Council of the Trade Unions.

Last year he made his decision to enter politics and gained pre-selection for the safe Labour seat of Wills, in a working class area of Melbourne, and he subsequently entered Parliament at the October election.

He has since been appointed Labour's spokesman on industrial relations.

Mr Hawke is dynamic, respected, tough and charismatic. As union president, he was seen as something of a magician because of his ability to settle disputes.

Mr Hayden, on the other hand, has been something of a disappointment. Although no one has questioned his intelligence or his integrity, his problem is that he lacks appeal.

It is hard to argue that Labour would be worse off with Mr Hawke as leader and an increasing number of Labour members and supporters seem *to think he could defeat* Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, in 1983.

There seems to be no doubt *that if Mr Hayden lost the 1983* election, Mr Hawke would take over as party leader, but there is increasing feeling that to *wait until then is pointless.* Present odds suggest Mr Hawke might take over some time this year.

Canadian Tory leader accuses Mr Trudeau of trickery over patriation of constitution

From John Best
Ottawa, Feb 24

Mr Joe Clark, Leader of the Conservative Opposition in the House of Commons, last night accused Mr Pierre Trudeau's Government of using trickery to achieve its goal of bringing home the Canadian constitution from Britain.

Mr Clark gave warning that if the Prime Minister gets his way the result would be a *permanent residue of bitterness,* particularly in western Canada, where all the provinces are against it.

"*The result will have us look*ing around to the breaking of the confederation and perhaps the breaking of the nation *itself", he said.*

He was speaking in a Commons debate on a controversial resolution calling on Britain to *surrender control over the* British North American Act of 1867, Canada's constitution, after attaching an amending *formula and a bill of rights.*

Only about half the 102 Tory members sat in on the speech. That could be an ill omen for the youthful Mr Clark's chances of surviving an imminent leadership test.

Delegates to a party General meeting in Ottawa this weekend will be asked whether they favour holding a full leadership convention. If half of them say yes, Mr Clark must either step aside or face having to fight other candidates for his job.



Mr Joe Clark: Confederation in danger of breaking apart.

His main speech on the constitution was addressed to the 2,000 Tories whose votes could decide his fate this weekend as much as to the country at large. It was a good, sound speech, quite well argued, but lacking in fire.

He rejected as "simply absurd" that the federal system in Canada did not work. "There have been times, of course, when it prevented one man from getting his way", he added, looking sternly at Mr Trudeau across the aisle. "But that's its virtue. . . . Our system of Government does work whenever reasonable leaders and Governments permit it to work".

He questioned whether the procedure being used by the federal Government was legitimate—"whether it is legitimate to have one part of the partnership use trickery to change the rules of the whole partnership, against the wishes of the others.

"*No one who travels in the* west today can ignore the sense of grievance there or the degree to which that sense of *grievance will be aggrevated if* both provinces are given second class status under our constitution.

"When all of the parties and Governments of the west and all of the provincial parties of Quebec stand together against a measure with the determination that we have seen, only the blind would believe that anger will pass away."

Canada's four western provinces all oppose Mr Trudeau's constitutional initiative, as do four of the other six provinces.

Under the amending formula proposed by Mr Trudeau, the two central provinces, Ontario and Quebec, would enjoy a permanent veto over future constitutional change. The *other provinces would have a* veto only in certain conditions.

President Obote urged to curb army violence

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Feb 24

Mr Paul Semogerere, the Ugandan opposition leader, has urged President Milton Obote to ensure better control of the Ugandan Army, which has been accused of killing and harassing civilians after recent attacks on *police stations* by two underground groups which say they want to overthrow Dr Obote.

Mr Semogerere and a delegation from his Democratic Party spent two hours in talks with Dr Obote at State House, Entebbe. They are said to have had frank and free exchanges on security, agreeing that the recent attacks are not a popular uprising but the work of a small group of lawless elements.

Uganda radio said Mr Semogerere *pledged his support* to the Obote government in overcoming a threat to security, but asked for specific instances of army excesses to be investigated.

Two underground groups, the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM) and the *Movement of* the Struggle for Political Rights Mospor claims to be associated sibility for the recent attacks.

Mospod claims to be associated with the Uganda Patriotic Movement, a political party which contested the December elections and whose president, Mr Yoweri Museveni, has disappeared since the attacks.

The Sudanese authorities say about 5,000 Ugandans have recently crossed into southern Sudan to escape from the excesses of Ugandan soldiers who have been killing and harassing *civilians* in areas near the border.

Community talks: Ministers from Kenya, Tanzania and *Uganda met in Kampala today* to reopen discussions on the division of assets and liabilities of the East African Community, *which collapsed in 1977 after* disagreements between its three member states.

Presidents of the three countries, *who met in Kampala last* month, agreed to speed up efforts to unscramble the complicated finances of the community. Dr Viktor Umbricht, a Swiss mediator, has prepared recommendations, under which Kenya would be required to *pay large sums to the other* two countries; but Kenya is understood to be contesting his proposals.

More people flee from Vietnam

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, Feb 24

Recent arrivals in Hongkong from Vietnam say that there will be a renewed flow of refugees because of serious food shortages and military conscription.

A total of 452 "boat people" have arrived since the beginning of this year, twice as many as in the same period of last year.

Vietnamese authorities have tightened the surveillance of the escape routes, but members of a group of 70 who arrived yesterday, said that living conditions and food rations have deteriorated so sharply that Vietnamese families will *risk* their lives to escape.

Eastern European military personnel have already been diverted from Kampuchea to prevent refugees from crossing the northern border into China. Many local officials in that area have been accepting bribes.

One of the refugees said that escapers would begin seizing government vessels, usually manned by a crew of 12 who would collaborate with the refugees after rebelling against the two Hanoi officers in command. There are between 4,000 and 5,000 of these patrolling vessels along the coast.

The average price for escape is 6,000 dongs (£1,200) which the refugee spokesman said had taken him years of hard labour to acquire, as the average worker earned only about 65 dongs a month, virtually all of which was needed for rationed food and upkeep.

"Life is not worth living in Vietnam today", he added.

Manila jets blamed for attack on junks

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, Feb 24

Philippine Air Force jet *fighters* were *blamed* for a recent attack on three Hongkong fishing junks which were anchored in international waters *about 200 miles west of Manila.*

Six bombs were dropped in low-dive attacks but only one hit a junk. It did not explode, but made a hole in the hull. Two-thirds of the engine-room was filled with water and the three engines were knocked out before the pumps began to operate.

Three members of the crew and three Filipino fishermen seeking water were on board but escaped injury. The other *20 members of the crew and* fishermen from the two other junks were fishing in sampans some distance from the attacked vessels.

After working overnight to pump out the water and plug the hole made by the 2 ft-long missile marked "CTIT", the crew of the crippled junk sailed *home to Hongkong escorted by* the other two.

The attack was made on Thursday but the junks did not *reach Hongkong until Monday* morning.

Hongkong marine police are still examining the junk but it *is taken for granted* that the fighters belonged to the Philippine Air Force

Social Focus

Worth examining, these new ideas for sixth formers

The Manifesto for Change which was issued last week by 32 distinguished public figures including Lord Butler of Saffron Walden is timely in emphasizing that quality is what is important in schools. The declaration makes many wise observations but at one point implies that quality is somehow incompatible with examinations. It is true that examinations can distort the curriculum but it would be rash *to deduce* from this that they are a bad thing in themselves. At the sixth form level above all they are vital and they are closely associated with the idea of quality. *The main problem is narrowness* of interests and the best way to solve this is by using the examination system in a constructive way.

Ever since A-levels *replaced* the Higher School Certificate 30 years ago we have had an over-specialized curriculum in our sixth forms. This was not the result that *the change was meant to bring about but* it has turned out to be the price we pay for enabling students to graduate from our universities after only three years' study. *Such a uniquely swift progression has only* been possible by virtue of standards set by first-rate teaching in sixth forms and Universities. There is a purposefulness *about it for which we are greatly envied* elsewhere in Europe and which it is important to preserve.

But the price need not be so high. It really ought not to be so difficult to encourage young people to be rather more catholic in their interests. Quite apart from its wider implications the question is urgent in commercial terms. The British Overseas Trade Board has recently been emphasizing its concern at the neglect of foreign languages among our most able young people. Many business leaders agree, *in the belief* that greater ability to communicate would equip us to compete more forcefully in some of our overseas markets.

The many attempts to find a solution to the problem of over-specialization have failed, not least because alternative schemes have been too arcane to capture *the public imagination. By contrast the* proposal which is at present being considered by the education ministers is at root so blindingly simple that no A-level parent *should find* any *difficulty in having* an opinion about it.

It is that instead of following the present orthodoxy of three A-levels, sixth formers *in schools and* colleges should be offered the alternative of two A-levels and two "half-A-levels". They could then have four, instead of three subjects as a preparation for higher education, business and the professions. *Three of the subjects* could continue to be closely related—maths, physics and chemistry for example. Those applying to universities would still have the two A-levels that are generally named as the requirement for their course. The third related subject would still be taken well beyond O-level. And there would be a fourth subject which could be something quite different, such as a modern language.

The great advantage of this idea is that it requires no tampering with A-level. It was because previous schemes involved replacing A-level with something less rigorous *that they foundered.* As it was, this tried and trusted examination had itself begun to appear inadequate. From the university point of view in particular it was not just a *matter of preserving* A-level but of restoring its falling reputation.

The loss of confidence in A-level had arisen largely because the *innovations of* the late Sixties and early Seventies had gone too far. Analyses by the Royal Society in mathematics and science subjects showed *that the syllabuses of* the various examining boards had disturbingly little in common. Consequently, many of those entering universities and polytechnics *had not covered* the basic ground which was necessary to ensure that they could get off to a good start in their degree studies.

During the past few years a great deal has been done to restore coherence to A-level. The examining boards are now very conscious of the importance of *incorporating* a common core of material in the A-level syllabuses of the major subjects and this will make life easier for many young people. After all, nearly 60 per cent of those who pass A-level Maths go to universities alone, never mind the additional numbers going to polytechnics. For physics and chemistry the proportions are considerably higher.

Removing the question marks over A-level has made it easier to think clearly about the "half-A" or intermediate level proposal. It is no longer a matter of introducing a controversial package of new examinations which would leave most people bewildered, but rather of introducing a modest element of flexibility which could gain acceptance gradually and so bring about changes in the time-honoured British way, without upheaval.

When the Department of Education and *Science issued its Green Paper Examinations 16-18* last October it was very concerned that the universities and the employers would give their support to the intermediate-level proposal. Both have done so. The CBI has supported the idea and the universities have been more prepared to welcome it than any other such proposal in the past 30 years. In addition, the examining boards are confident that they could make it work in practice.

The one misfortune is that the I-level scheme has come to the fore at a time of anxiety over staffing cuts. It is an *atmosphere in which some representatives* of the *schools* are unlikely to be well disposed to new ideas to help the more able, particularly as there are now considerable numbers of non-A level sixth formers for whom something different is needed. So they could well be tempted to dismiss the proposal as irrelevant and at best only worth considering as a trade-off for the injection of more money.

To take this view would be to magnify the problem. Obviously the scope for teaching for the new examination would vary from school to school, depending on the resources available. But it would be very surprising if any school were totally incapable of introducing any intermediate-level courses. After all it could well be possible to do the teaching jointly with A-level work and this could prove to be a *more* economical use of teachers. In any case we are talking about how the sixth form curriculum will look in three or four years' time when the staffing situation may be very different.

The great danger is that recriminations about expenditure cuts could obscure constructive thinking about what is best for sixth formers and for the country in the longer run. Another short step and this serious educational question could be reduced to the level of political rhetoric. That would be the end of the proposal and it would be a sorry reason for keeping our most able young people in an unnecessary straitjacket.

Arthur Hearnden

The author, who is Secretary of the Standing Conference on University Entrance, is writing here in a personal capacity.

Why Wandsworth pensioners are angry about these unkind cuts

Pensioners in Wandsworth are seeking a meeting with *Mr Michael Heseltine,* Secretary of State for the Environment, to protest at the way cuts in services will affect them.

They are angry, not simply because a number of services on which they have relied are being cut, but because of the insensitive way they say they are being carried out. For example, the council closed down a slipper bath which had been used by pensioners living in bedsitters and those who were afraid of running up fuel bills to heat enough water for baths at home. They were told they could use their free bus passes to go to another borough where slipper baths remained open.

The Conservatives, who took control in 1978, promised in their manifesto to expand luncheon clubs for old people, yet five out of the ten are due to be closed by April. Again, pensioners have been told to use their bus passes to go to one that remains open.

The hours of amenities like the public library are also being reduced, so pensioners can no longer use them as much *as they used to as quiet and warm places* to pass a few hours. The number and hours of public lavatories, holidays and day trips for the elderly are being cut, while the services that remain cost them more. Meals have gone up from 6½p to 40p—four times the increase planned in 1978.

Such services may seem unimportant to some councillors, but to pensioners struggling with rising rents, rates and fuel bills, they represent a real reduction *in living standards.* They fear, too, that reductions in the home help service, the gardening and window cleaning service, and of social service staff helping the *frail elderly at home will precipitate them* into residential homes or geriatric hospitals at greater cost to the community.

Alice Regan, aged 79, who was born in *Wandsworth, worked until she was 65* and now has a small civil service pension on top of her state pension. She pays income tax, but receives rebates on her *rent and rates. But since the rebates* are proportional, she has to meet part of the extra cost herself and can get no help *with her heating bills.*

"People just over the margin are penalized", she said. "We are reduced to begging after working all our lives. There *is no encouragement to get a higher* standard of living."

The Wandsworth Pensioners' conference, which meets *regularly,* carried out a survey *earlier* this year which *found that* 57 per cent of pensioners did not have enough money for heating bills, and a quarter could meet neither their rent nor food bills without going without another essential.

But Sylvia Campbell, aged 69, who suffers from arthritis and cares for the daily needs of a helpless friend aged 93, has had her own home help's hours cut. It will mean eventually that she will have to give up one of the two old people's clubs she also *helps to run. It must be* cheaper, she said, to give a proper home help service than take old people into homes.

The feelings of pensioners are mirrored by the attitudes of senior social services staff, whose morale is low. They feel that cuts are being imposed without thought to priorities, and that the social services *will* be reduced to dealing only with crises.

One children's home head told me: "They are simply cutting by numbers. They do not care what the effects on the services are, or that children it has taken months to build up a relationship with are now insecure again, wondering if they can stay in their present *home* or *even with* their brothers and sisters."

What distresses the staff most is that Wandworth has gradually built up a good *service from a relatively low base in the* past few years, with room for development, innovation and prevention work. It had become a borough where good staff were *attracted from elsewhere.*

But the cuts are of such a scale that staff feel they are being pushed into a "barricade mentality of social work" *where even essential services will be main*tained with difficulty. Such comments are usual when any service feels threatened, but they are endorsed by outsiders in this case.

Margaret Robinson, head of the social work course at Chelsea College, believes the decision to close down the social services training department at Wandsworth will have wide implications across West London.

Dr E. Meltzer, a consultant psychiatrist attached part-time to the Bolingbroke day centre for the mentally ill, believes its impending closure has already caused two patients to be readmitted to the local psychiatric hospital. Further unnecessary admissions will follow, so will more suicide attempts and an increase in mental illness in the borough, he said.

The closure of the centre will reduce to 35 the day places available in Wandsworth, although guidelines laid down by the Department of Health and Social Security suggest the borough needs 152. It is being closed, according to Mr Edward Lister, chairman of social services, because it has been underused and because of the need for overall cuts.

The social services budget for 1981-82 is to be cut by £2.4 million, about 9 per cent according to official council calculations. Officers argue that it is nearer to 12½ per cent, but both figures contrast with the Government projection of a 1 per cent growth figure for next year.

Mr Lister says Wandsworth is treating departments equally in the face of cuts of between £7 to £8 million in the borough's rate support grant and the massive increase in rates that will flow from that and from the increase in the precept for the Inner London Education Authority.

He puts the other side of the argument: pensioners, luncheon clubs, he maintains, are being closed because they were underused, while the extra charges for meals will still not cover their cost and will be lower than elsewhere in London. The social services training department is being closed because it is an expensive operation, but the central training department will continue.

But the department has notched up one victory in its campaign against the cuts. Mr Lister accepts that the assessment centre at Earlsfield children's home is successful and will be continued, but in another setting.

Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Health: is insurance the answer?

The Government's plans to find *an alternative way of financing* the Health Service have receded into the middle distance. Despite the enthusiasm of Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, ministers now accept that no legislation providing for any radical refinancing of the National Health Service will be possible in this Parliament.

The timetable now involves a discussion document later this year or early next, a public debate and possibly a manifesto commitment to an alternative scheme for the next election.

For both ministers and civil servants have learnt that the closer other countries' systems of health insurance are examined, *the more difficult it* becomes to find a way of grafting such a system into the existing NHS without damaging the *often unsung virtues of the* present system which ministers are adamant they wish to maintain.

What is being sought now is ideas. A Department of Health and Social Security working party is examining what one civil servant has dubbed "Heinz 57"—the wide variety of methods, largely insurance-based, by which other countries finance their health care.

Ideas are being drawn from the Centre for Policy Studies, and an eager eye is kept on any signs of a debate about alternative methods in universities, the medical journals and the lay press.

The Department of Health, however, seems no nearer designing even an outline insurance-based system that stands a real chance of raising extra funds for the NHS without swallowing them in extra bureaucracy than it was when the Tories took office.

A *recent background paper* put to ministers is full of questions about what would be practicable or desirable, but it is *notable for a lack of answers,* and the statement that it will be some years before conclusions can be drawn on how the *existing system can be modified.*

The situation is complicated by the fact that ministers want a broad consensus over any *change they introduce,* being determined to avoid creating the sort of political football that pensions became in the 1960s *and early 1970s, with all the* uncertainty that would create. Given the Labour Party's commitment to a tax-based NHS, *such consensus is hard* to envisage.

In essence there seems to be only two real possibilities. One is tinkering with the existing balance between the private and public sectors to the former's advantage, so that extra money goes into health care by voluntary private insurance. The Government has already adopted this course. Restrictions on private hospital building have been eased, the removal of pay beds has been halted, and the NHS is being encouraged to use private beds on contract, to lease unused facilities to the private sector, to undertake joint planning, joint purchasing and even joint management with private hospitals.

The logical extension of that would be tax *concessions* on health insurance contributions, which would provide still greater growth to the private insurance sector, which has already almost doubled in size *in two years and now covers* more than 3.5 million people. That course the Government could well adopt.

The other alternative is a switch to full-blown state-backed compulsory health insurance, covering perhaps family doctor and *acute hospital* services, leaving the mentally-ill and handicapped, geriatric care and the chronically ill *to be financed from* general taxation.

Such a system brings with it the problems of collecting *premiums,* and of assessing them when perhaps 40 per cent of the population—the young, the old, the chronically ill and the pregnant—would not pay. It would also bring the problem of controlling costs, something that has bedevilled virtually every insurance-based system in the past decade. Betting within the Department of Health is 70-30 against the idea being adopted.

To introduce it ministers have found, somewhat to their horror, that a *fundamental* change would be needed in the way the NHS handles its budget.

The *current system, designed* to give broad budgetary control and to stop people putting their hands in the till, cannot *in general provide costings for* individual operations, procedures and courses of treatment. Such information would *almost certainly be needed for* an insurance-based system.

Doctors and administrators would then have a much clearer idea of what the treatment they give an individual actually costs.

To remedy a situation in which one transplant surgeon, for example, prescribed drugs *costing £1 million a year with*out being aware of their cost, a joint DHSS/NHS working party is studying ways of pro*viding* data on day-to-day *costs*.

Ministers are planning to set charges for NHS pay beds in hands related to a hospital's *actual* costs—rather *than* at present relating them to whether the bed is in a teaching hospital or not. This, ministers believe, would make *consultants* with private practice more aware of the charges they had to make. It would encourage them to *keep them competitive* with neighbouring hospitals, a position that could have a knock-on effect on the costs of NHS beds in which the same services are provided.

Such approaches could well lead to better value for money and this with greater cost awareness is one of the driving forces encouraging ministers to *look at insurance-based* system.

With health spending in Britain already running above £10,000m a year, it may turn out *that the question* to be asked is not how do we raise extra money for the NHS, but introducing a system the benefits *of which cannot* be guaranteed, but how do we spend this massive sum of money better.

Nicholas Timmins

BSC gets last chance as Government backs 'optimistic' proposals

House of Commons

The British Steel Corporation is to be given a last chance to become profitable. Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, said in a statement. He announced that the Government was to support the corporate plan submitted to it by Mr Ian MacGregor, the corporation chairman.

Under the plan, which Mr MacGregor admits is optimistic, the corporation would break even by 1982-83.

Sir Keith Joseph (Leeds, North-East, C) said: No one in the House can welcome the position in which much of the steel industry finds itself. It has been nationalized, denationalized and renationalized. It has been encouraged by governments to carry out unrealistic investment programmes. The Labour party refused to allow BSC to close surplus steel capacity. Its workforce went on a three months' long strike.

Now the market has collapsed and the high value of sterling has created serious difficulties for private and public steel firms alike—here and in Europe.

BSC, which should have been allowed to contract gradually by the last Labour Government, cut manned steelmaking capacity from 21.5 million tonnes of liquid steel to 15 million and shed 50,000 jobs in 1980. Works were closed and manning levels slimmed to raise productivity.

A report by BSC on its plans has been published today. The aim is for BSC to become internationally competitive. Mr MacGregor has reorganized the corporation into separate businesses, each responsible for the production and marketing of a specific product range. He is planning a manned capacity of 14.4 million tonnes of liquid steel annually but is committed, if the assumptions behind the plan are not sustained, to reduce the Corporation to a size that can in fact make a profit.

BSC's results will depend not only on its own performance but on factors such as exchange rates, the European market and any upturn in steel ordering in the United Kingdom. Mr MacGregor admits that his plan is optimistic and I think he is right.

He has made it clear to Government and to the managers and workforce of the corporation that there will be no future for any operations that are not competitive.

BSC has asked the Government for an extra £150m in 1980-81 bringing the total external finance requirement to £1,121m and for £730m in 1981-82.

This is huge money for taxpayers to find, particularly when unsubsidized private sector steel companies, some in competition with BSC, face extreme difficulties. The Government is greatly concerned about the impact of the *European steel recession plus* BSC's vigorous marketing on private firms.

I therefore recently authorized BSC to negotiate viable joint private companies with those firms whose operations overlapped its own. Agreement on one such company, Allied Steel and Wire, was announced on Friday. Transitional arrangements for some of the assets of Duport Steel were announced yesterday.

Setting up more joint companies takes time and will not entirely deal with the problem of competition between BSC and the private sector. I have stressed to Mr MacGregor that BSC must compete fairly with private firms and have pointed to widespread complaints that BSC is unfairly undercutting private firms.

He replies that BSC and private firms' prices have increasingly been undercut by other EEC producers. *The corporation* has therefore had to price down. The private sector has had to do the same.

Mr MacGreor has further undertaken personally to investigate any specific alleagtions of unfair pricing that are put to him by companies or by MPs. I have asked Under-Secretary of State (Mr Michael Marshall) to monitor these complaints and to report to me.

And, in order to make BSC's operations more transparent, and to pave the way for further privitization, Mr MacGregor has agreed to consider placing those BSC businesses which are in competition with the private sector in separate Companies Act companies.

Mr MacGregor has said that by all normal commercial criteria BSC is bankrupt. Because BSC is a statutory body it cannot be liquidated like a private sector company and the Government and taxpayers cannot therefore at present escape from funding BSC.

Mr MacGregor has developed a plan which could bring BSC back to profitability by making it as efficient as its European competitors. Recognizing that BSC should be given a last chance to become profitable and cease to burden the taxpayer the Government is prepared, on condition that the corporation behaves responsibly towards the unsubsidized private steelmakers, to approve BSC's corporate plan and to provide the finance needed to implement it.

BSC's target is to reduce its loss before interest from an estimated £480m in 1980-81 to £225m in 1981-82 and to achieve break-even in 1982-83. We shall increase BSC's external financial limit for 1980-81 to £1,121m and have set its EFL for 1981-82 at £730m. These large figures reflect BSC's substantial though reduced losses, but also provide for heavy redundancy and closure costs and a limit programme of essential capital expenditure.

I must also emphasize that, if Mr MacGregor's optimism is not justified, further closures and redundancies may be necessary. The Government will monitor progress closely in each of BSC's businesses. Mr MacGregor will give us his assessment of progress by July.

To implement these decisions some changes in the law are needed and I have today published the Iron and Steel Bill, 1981. This amends the Iron and Steel Act, 1975, to ease the transfer of businesses to the private sector and to permit an extensive rundown of the corporation if that proves necessary.

We also need to deal with the mistakes of the past. The Bill will write off some £3,500m of BSC's capital immediately, will provide a power to write off a further £1,000m later and will make consequential adjustments to the corporation's borrowing limit. This does not represent the commitment of additional funds; it marks the huge cost to the taxpayer of over-ambitious, centrally directed investments and the uncompetitive use of many of them.

The Government does not intend to alter the assisted area status of any steel closure area at this time but we do not underestimate the problems for the communities and people concerned. I shall, if necessary, consider whether any regrading would be appropriate.

We shall also seek to ensure that market conditions in Europe are improved. The production quotas imposed under Article 58 of the Treaty of Paris expire on June 30 and we are already discussing with our Community partners the measures to replace them. We intend to ensure that reductions in capacity are equitably shared among the members of the Community and that, so far as possible, short term market conditions do not invalidate long term commercial objectives.

The financial provisions we propose will require approval from the European Commission.

The Government may have had to spend taxpayers' money this time, but we are seeking powers to relieve the taxpayer of the inescapable obligation to fund BSC indefinitely. The Government intends the competition the private sector faces from BSC to be fair and we expect more public/private steel firms to be created which will be in the private sector.

It is a tough time for all who work in the steel industry. There can be no guarantee of survival. But for those who are or who become competitive there is far more hope of a secure and prosperous future than for those who do not become competitive.

Concern on both sides over impact on private sector

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on industry, (Salford, West, Lab), questioning Sir Keith Joseph on the statement, said: We welcome the proposals as far as they go. The statement must be set against the current economic and industrial background which the Government has done much to create—low demand, high interest rates, the level of the pound and energy costs—which has had a devastating effect on the steel industry, public and private sector.

Today we have had the dreadful news of the proposed closure of the Llanelli works with all that involves for many thousands of steel workers in the area.

He has announced how the capital is to be used. What about the current money for running the steel industry? What about the possibility of investment? What he said about denationalization was extraordinary. With the Duport proposal he is nationalizing at present.

He calls for cooperation between work people and management. This corporate plan was not an agreed plan between the steel unions and the management. If he wants the cooperation of the unions he has a duty to see that Mr McGregor and the steel board consult properly with them.

What action will he take to protect the British steel industry from unfair subsidized competition from many of our European competitors, not least West Germany?

Further privatization, if he proposes through this device to sell off BSC companies which have become profitable, will be against the interests of the taxpayer.

The taxpayer will have invested in the industry and then that investment, if profitable, will be taken away. Is July a feasible time by which Mr MacGregor can report? We are already two months behind the proposed timetable.

Sir Keith Joseph: The use of the capital is shown in the published plan. It is true some assets of Duport have been bought by the public sector but only transitionally until the hoped-for public/private company in engineering steels is formed. If that company were not to be formed Duport's assets acquired by BSC could not be sold to it and they would be sold on the market.

There is fierce competition within the EEC. That is what is being discussed under Article 58. Not all of that competition is subsidized.

He spoke about the taxpayer's interest in any company that might be sold from the BSC to the private sector. To the extent that part of BSC is privatized the taxpayer, who has not done well out of BSC, will be well out of it.

Mr Michael Grylls (North-West Surrey, C): This statement illustrates the folly of nationalization. Will he comment on the concern that many in the independent sector of the steel industry feel that the BSC will be judge and jury in the case of subsidized competition against them? Will he ensure that monitoring by his department is tough and effective?

Sir Keith Joseph: Mr MacGregor has assured me he does not intend there should be unfair competition. If any cases are taken to him and not satisfactorily resolved he has agreed that will be brought to the Under Secretary for Industry (Mr Marshall) who has had 17 years' experience in private sector steel.

The results will be communicated to the BSC. Mr Marshall will not have the role of arbitrator but that of conciliator.

Mr Patrick Duffy (Sheffield, Attercliffe, Lab): In the case of my constituency in the east end of Sheffield his announced funding of BSC will be taken as a vote of confidence in some of the best and most technologically advanced steel plant in the world, notably the £140m stainless steel development. Elsewhere in my constituency, in the private steel sector, firms like Firth Brown and Hadfields and Aurora and Duport's local representative, Flather Bright Steels, feel neglected and victimized, almost entirely as a result of the policies of this Government.

Sir Keith Joseph: I am in doubt which side of the argument he is on. Is he on the side of the subsidized, nationalized industry or of unsubsidized private enterprise?

The trouble we are facing today is because of the steel nationalization which the Opposition not only undertook once but twice. It is true, as Mr Duffy with his wide experience would agree, that BSC contains some internationally competitive, and I hope many potentially internationally competitive, sectors.

Mr Michael Brown (Brigg and Scunthorpe, C): Will he note that some 8,000 jobs have been lost in the steel industry in my constituency but take the opportunity today to remind those of my constituents who might delude and deceive themselves that his announcement today guarantees them a future?

Will he point out to them how important it is that they have to recognize the fall-off in demand for their product?

What will the Government and the BSC need to see happen in July to determine whether today's statement will hold water post-July?

Is he of the view that the plan of the MacGregor proposals is too optimistic or not?

Sir Keith Joseph: The whole House respects the degree of hardship and bitter disappointment that the redundancies that have been carried out and are having to be carried out represent to individuals, families and communities.

I doubt whether there is any uncertainty among those who work in the steel industry, private or public, about the seriousness of the need for every effort to become internationally competitive.

Mr MacGregor himself regards his plan as optimistic. I believe he is right. That only makes it the more important for every group involved to struggle to be competitive. Even when firms and sectors of BSC succeed in raising their competitiveness, market conditions may still be such, because of lower demand all over Europe and great overcapacity to which BSC has contributed enormously in the past, as to defeat their purpose.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L): If Sir Keith Joseph believes the process of nationalization, denationalization and nationalization are one of the root causes of the trouble, why does he think yet another dose of the same medicine will improve the situation?

The statement indicates that the international value of the pound is one of the problems. Why does the Government not pursue a policy which will produce a more intelligent value of the currency?

Sir Keith Joseph: It is nationalization that is the problem. If Mr Penhaligon, or the party to which he belongs has a magic method of controlling the rate of the pound that would not do more harm than good, then doubtless he will let the House know.

Mr Peter Emery (Honiton, C): He will gain support for the programme he has put before us but it is with a heavy heart for many of us.

Would he therefore tell the House, if it is an optimistic figure that there will be losses of £480m and £285m in the next two years—and the most optimistic forecasts in the steel industry have proved wrong—what are the pessimistic figures, so that we can know the worst we might have to suffer, and not just the best?

Sir Keith Joseph: Mr Emery has enough experience of the market to know that answer cannot be given. Mr MacGregor and British Steel are not going to sit back passively. If their forecasts are nullified, they will take what action seems to be necessary as events unfold.

It is the market conditions and exchange rates, as well as individual and company performance, that are going to make the difference.

Mr David Lambie (Central Ayrshire, Lab): Will he consult with the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr George Younger) before agreeing to any further closure or redundancies in the Scottish steel industry, where unemployment is high and where we have suffered enough closures and redundancies?

Sir Keith Joseph: I sympathize with those who have been made redundant and the thinking behind his question. Under legislation passed by his government the power to decide on closures and redundancies is entirely for British Steel management.

Mr Charles Fletcher-Cooke (Darwen, C): Against the possibility that this optimistic plan may unfortunately fail, will he include in the new Bill powers to wind up BSC if necessary?

Sir Keith Joseph: But that is virtually what the new Bill enables to happen.

Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch, C): Is he aware of the keen sense of injustice among private steel makers on the difference in terms between them and the public sector in matters of competition, prices, redundancies, and closure terms?

Sir Keith Joseph: I have no doubt of the sense of injustice. On the other hand, some of the allegations made accuse British Steel of unfair competition when the reasons are imports at far lower prices, and not British Steel at all.

Duport assets were bought by British Steel not in order to retain them and to compete with the private sector but in order to be in partnership with the private sector.

Mr John Bruce-Gardyne (Knutsford, C): Is it not sadly the case that not least because of the behaviour of BSC under Mr MacGregor's leadership, there are few firms in the private sector who would not be delighted to land their steel-making activities in the hands of the taxpayer?

Such public-private amalgams are going to be tarred with the brush of the BSC and their customers are going to be no more prepared to rely on them for quantity or delivery than they have done up to now on BSC, hence the consequence will not be an improvement in the home share of the market, but the market for imported products.

Sir Keith Joseph: *I do not often disagree with him, but I do disagree sharply with him on each of his propositions.* I know of some companies that do not want to be nationalized and I am sure many others do not want to at all, and are perfectly ready, provided BSC behaves as Mr MacGregor wants them to behave, to take their chances in a competitive market.

The new public-private sector companies will be Companies Act companies in the private sector and there will be no umbilical cord to the taxpayer at all. They will not be tainted by the BSC image nor will they serve their customers ill.

Mr Frederick Mulley (Sheffield, Park, Lab): He must be living in an unreal world if he thinks that the problems of the industry stem from the shortcomings of the previous Government and are in no way connected with this Government's economic policies.

Sir Keith Joseph: BSC's problems are not connected with this Government's policies. (Labour protests). They are inherited from nationalization, overmanning and restrictive labour practices.

Mr Michael Morris (Northampton, South, C): The policy of destroying the private sector to save the public sector is unacceptable. In the future, will he look at the needs of the private sector and where these fall the nation, then the public sector can be brought forward.

Sir Keith Joseph: The Government has no policy such as he describes and my statement shows the extent to which we are giving BSC active cooperation to ensure fair competition.

Aiming at future with firmly based jobs

The industrial situation had been caused by failure over the last 20 years to take the right action at the right time, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said during questions.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon, Plaid Cymru) who had asked for job vacancy figures, was told by

Mr Prior (Lowestoft, C): At February 1981, the seasonally adjusted number of notified vacancies remaining unfilled at employment offices in the United Kingdom was 96,000 compared with 254,600 at May, 1979.

Vacancies at careers offices, which are not seasonally adjusted, number 3,721 in February 1981 and 41,265 in May 1979.

As not all vacancies are notified to employment offices it is estimated that there are about 200,000 to 250,000 vacancies in the economy as a whole compared with 700,000 to 800,000 in May 1979.

Mr Wigley: On a quick calculation, that represents a drop of 70 per cent in the number of available jobs since May 1979.

On that basis, when will the Conservative strategy of encouraging people to do their own thing and set up their own jobs, and giving more incentives, work through the economy and provide more jobs?

Mr Prior: In Wales in the last month vacancies have started to rise a bit, a good sign. Unemployment rose less in Wales in that time than in most other regions of Britain.

As for achieving a right balance in the economy and getting more jobs, when we get through this recession I am certain this is precisely what will happen.

It will be more firmly based employment and prosperity than the country has known for 20 years.

Mr Bowen Wells (Hertford and Stevenage, C): Despite financial difficulties facing employers, new company formation vastly outstrips bankrupties particularly among small businesses. This is encouraging for future job opportunities and vacancies in the coming months.

Mr Prior: That is correct. The uptake of jobs will come mostly from small companies. Anything we can do to help small companies we should do.

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale L): Even the few job vacancies existing apply in even smaller numbers to men in the 55 to 65 age group.

Has he any special plans to look at the possibility of what one might describe as job creation schemes for this group, similar to those for 18-year-olds? Many of these older men feel they are on the scrap heap.

Mr Prior: The position of these men is particularly serious. They tend to be the long-term unemployed. The community enterprise programme, designed for the long-term unemployed, will be increased to 25,000 places this coming year. We hope it will take up between 40,000 and 45,000 people during the year.

The job release scheme is regrettably at the moment only for those of 64 and over. But this is a scheme which, when funds are available, we should increase with advantage.

Mr Eric Varley, *chief Opposition spokesman on employment* (Chesterfield, Lab): The intolerable unemployment levels represent the inevitable collapse of the Government's economic and industrial policies.

Will he admit that if we are to arrest the situation, it can be done only by the Government introducing bold and imaginative measures to get people back to work rather than having the shambles which exists now?

Mr Prior: I do not accept that. I accept that the present situation represents the failure of a period of 20 years of not taking the right action at the right time. All the Opposition's suggestions would merely put us back in that position.

Slim BSC could be out of state sector

When the nationalised steel industry had become profitable, the Government might be able to denationalize it, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, indicated during questions.

Mr James Hill (Southampton, Test, C) had said: Is she aware of the unease on the backbenches among some of us at the excessively generous funding of nationalised industries?

It is creating a situation where, at the end of the day, it will only be the nationalized industries which will survive and the private sector, to which we are dedicated, will fall.

Mrs Thatcher: The Secretary of State for Industry (Sir Keith Joseph) will be making a statement about the steel industry. There have been 50,000 jobs lost in the British Steel Corporation and one of the purposes of the money being injected into it, is to get it into a condition and size at which it can be profitable.

That is being done by slimming it down and paying some of the money for redundancies to see that that industry will become profitable. When it is I believe we can, perhaps, denationalize it.

Good wishes to Prince Charles and Lady Diana

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said that an audience with the Queen which she hoped to have later that day would give her an opportunity to express the great pleasure which the news of the Prince of Wales's engagement had brought to the Government and to the House as a whole.

Congratulations and good wishes to Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer on the announcement of *their* engagement were also expressed from all parts of the House of Lords.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, *said*: In the absence of the Leader of the House, I am very much pleased to be able to report to the House the announcement, which I am sure many peers will already have heard, of the engagement of HRH the Prince of Wales to the Lady Diana Spencer.

I am sure the House will wish to have an opportunity in due course to convey a more formal message to her Majesty the Queen. In the meantime peers would wish to join with me in conveying our heartfelt congratulations and very good wishes to HRH Prince Charles and the Lady Diana.

Lord Peart, Leader of the Opposition peers, described the announcement as "this happy news" and added the warmest congratulations of his colleagues.

Lord Byers (L) and **Lady Hylton-Foster** (Ind) joined in the good wishes and congratulations.

The Bishop of Salisbury said: We shall continue to pray that God's guidance and his riches will attend Prince Charles and the Lady Diana to the end of their days.

Social security benefit upratings can only equal rise in prices

Because of the extreme pressure on public spending the nation could not afford increases in the real value of social security benefits, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said when he moved the second reading of the Social Security Bill.

Mr Jenkin (Redbridge, Wanstead and Woodford, C) said it gave legislative form to one of the proposals announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer before Christmas for containing the growth in public spending.

The Government had had the courage to deal with current account spending and not just hack away at capital spending plans as its predecessors did.

Clause 1, upon which most controversy would focus, would ensure that the Government's intentions on uprating were implemented, including keeping the value of the retirement pension and other social security benefits in line with the rise in prices, in accordance with election pledges.

The increase in benefits in the week beginning November 24 last of 16½ per cent for pensions and most other long term benefits turned out to be one percentage point more than the increase in prices since the 1979 uprating.

In view of the extreme pressure on public expenditure (he said) the Government has taken the view that the nation cannot at present afford increases *in* the real value of social security benefits.

It had been *decided, therefore,* to take account of this 1 per cent excess when making next November's uprating. Existing legislation obliged the Government to carry the 1 per cent excess forward when fixing the 1981 increase. But this could not be afforded so the Bill asked Parliament to amend the law.

The Secretary of State in future must make a statement specifying the date of the uprating, the percentage by which benefits would have to be increased to increases h eproposed to provide for in the uprating order. In due course, he must lay an order providing for these increases.

Adjusting next November's uprating to maintain the pension in line with prices and to recover the excess would save around £170m of public spending in a full year, a further £30m on other benefits which followed suit, and about £25m on public service pensions, a total of about £225m.

He had given a clear undertaking that when invalidity benefit was brought into taxation, its value would be restored to the level it would have reached had it remained in line with long-term benefits. He anticipated *the Chancellor of the Exchequer* (Sir Geoffrey Howe) might have something to say in his Budget statement about the timing of the changes in these benefits.

The most important thing was to make sure pensioners and other beneficiaries get their increases at the due rate. The Government was proposing that the definitive date for the Budget forecast should be the date of the Budget announcement and not the date when the uprating order was laid.

Given the commitment to correct any underpayment the following year this seemed to be the most sensible course.

Changes increasing the maximum fines and maximum periods of imprisonment which might be imposed for offences under the Family Income Supplements Act 1970, Social Security Act 1975, Child Benefit Act 1975 and Supplementary Benefit Act 1976 were not being made as part of the Government's current campaign against social security fraud but to integrate social security penalties more fully with the general criminal law.

The Bill was shorter than the Government had originally envisaged because it did not include the clauses which would have been necessary to give effect to its proposals about eight-weeks statutory sic kpay. The reason was that it had decided to postpone that legislation to restore their value, and the actual the next session of Parliament. When he said postpone he meant precisely that.

We remain convinced (he said) that there are substantial advantages in placing the responsibility for the first eight weeks of sickness on a person's employer and avoiding the duplication which arises from the overlap of employers' sick pay with national insurance sick pay.

The change is essential if we are to achieve the purpose, supported by both sides of the House, of bringing the short-term benefits within taxation. It will also have the effect of saving some £400m of public spending matched by compensating adjustments to recompense employers for the extra burdens they will be taking on.

The reason why we decided to postpone the legislation was to give us more time to work on new proposals which emerged at a very late stage in our consultations to match that compensation more closely to actual sickness records likely to be experienced by different categories of employers.

The odiginal proposals by means of a flat-rate reduction in the rate of employers' national insurance contribution made no differentiation over sickness records and for that reason ran into a great deal of criticism.

The CBI's *alternative proposal* for 100 per cent reimbursement of the sickness payments made by employers was unacceptable because the checking and verification procedures that would have been necessary would swallow up virtually all the staff savings being aimed for.

Earlier this month a modified proposal emerged which would go a long way to meet the CBI's case but it required a great deal more study and refinement before it could be brought before the House. For that reason only, it was not in the Bill but would form part of a Bill to be intrduced erly net sessn.

Hitting the weak, elderly and disabled

Mr Norman Buchan, chief Opposition spokesman on social security, (West Renfrewshire, Lab) said the Opposition would not accept a *proposition that said that* when the country was in economic difficulties the problems must be paid for out of the pockets of the poor, sick and elderly. *If there was an economic decline, their conditions must be preserved.*

It was a short Bill but nonetheless nasty and brutal. Clauses 1 and 3 were the heart of the Bill which gave it its particular venom. The eight weeks' sick pay proposal was not dropped because the Government had a sudden illumination but because the CBI told it to drop it. The Opposition hoped it was dropped for all time.

When the miners or the CBI spoke the Government would relent and fall back. It clobbered the weak, elderly and disabled and capitulated to the strong. No pensioner would now be better off under this government because the "at least" minimum had become "at most".

By the method used in the Bill of clawing back the 1 per cent extra which old age pensioners had recieved by accident, the Government had ensured that pensioners would never become better off as long as the Bill went through. Mr Jenkin said that that clause was drafted to refer only to the November 1981 uprating.

Mr Buchan said that the Government did not understand what it was doing. They had over-estimated inflation on a previous occasion and given 1 per cent too much. They wer epromptly bringing in a Bill to claw it back.

The Bill was saying as clearly as possible that if by accident the pensioners got a few more coppers in their pockets, this Government would claw it back.

Water workers reminded who will pay

The Prime Minister was invited to make a U-turn over her policy of creating unemployment, but replied, during questions, that to fight inflation was the best way to fight unemployment.

Mr Christopher Price (Lewisham, West, Lab) stated: Now that, in respect of the coal industry, Mrs Thatcher has doffed the gloves of the Iron Maiden and put on those of a jelly baby, will she make a similar U-turn over her policy of creating unemployment and answer the question she refused to answer when faced with it a few weeks ago by her friend Mr Brian Walden, and tell us what level of unemployment will finally force her to a U-turn?

Mrs Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C): I give the same reply as that which I gave on that occasion: To fight inflation is the best way to fight unemployment.

Mr Derek Walker-Smith (East Hertfordshire, C): As the claim of the water and sewerage workers will be commanding her attention, will Mrs Thatcher, in any Government influence or intervention in the matter, have regard to the merits of the matter and not to extraneous considerations?

Will she confirm that ministers, having for reasons we understand, not picked up the gauntlet thrown down by the miners, will resist any temptation to prove their machismo by taking a robust view of this small but less powerful group, which does valuable work?

Mrs Thatcher: I understand that the employers in the water industry are meeting soon and the union shortly. On the merits of that claim, many in this country would like a job of that security together with some of the increase which has already been offered to them.

I hope that those who press for further rises will bear in mind that the money has to come from many citizens who do not have that increase.

The water authorities have been most cooperative and most have reduced the water rate substantially from the levels they had envisaged and are to be congratulated on doing so.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab): I urge her to be her normal pragmatic interventionist self in the crisis of the water industry.

Opposition party leaders call for positive response to Mr Brezhnev

The Prime Minister twice said that the best way to improve East-West relations was for Russia to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. *She urged that in looking at Mr Brezhnev's speech, they should remember it would suit the Soviet Union to have a moratorium on nuclear weapons when their deployment of them was far greater than that of the West.*

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, L) asked: In preparing to visit President Reagan tomorrow (Wednesday), will she urge him to make a positive response to Mr Brezhnev, knowing that there is anxiety throughout the country among all shades of political opinion about the heightening of East-West tension.

The most constructive thing that could be done would be to secure a summit conference on the lines he suggested.

Mrs Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C): President Reagan will be looking carefully at the speech, as we are. The best way to improve East-West relations is not by speeches *but by withdrawing troops from* Afghanistan.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab): May we assume that, in visiting the United States, with unemployment totals here rising to the highes figure recorded this century, she will not discuss economic matters with Mr Reagan but will give her mind to the speech yesterday by Mr Brezhnev and urge on President *Reagan and other powers that they* should make a constructive response to the proposals made for arms limitation, which appear to be a response to what was said by others at Madrid.

Will she go to the United States in the knowledge that stopping the arms race is the most important question in the world?

Mrs Thatcher: I have already given one reply on Mr Brezhnev's speech and have pointed out that the best way to improve relations would be for the Soviet Union to withdraw troops from Afghanistan.

About the rest of th espeech and the conference on arms limitation, it is a fact that the Soviet Union has got further with the deployment of missile than we have. We must bear in mind that there are occasions when it would suit Russia to stop deployment immediately.

We must look at the speech closely, and not just at the speech, *but at the facts on the ground.*

Mr Foot: I am in favour of looking at the facts on the ground as we did in the coal industry.

We are all in favour of the Soviet Union withdrawing from Afghanistan. (Conservative interruptions and shouts of dissent.) We have said it from this box right from the time the invasion took place. (Labour cheers.)

Since the Western powers put *forward* some suggestions about arms withdrawal at Madrid the speech from Moscow appears to make some response to that proposal. Surely we should use every power to build on it and to get some agreement?

Will Mrs Thathcer not go the meeting from this House and say: "Let us make a Herculean effort to stop this race," and approach it in that spirit instead of that shown a few moments ago.

Mrs Thatcher: The spirit I am showing is thoroughly realistic. The proposal to have talks on arms control and of theatre nuclear forces was made at Nato. There was one attempt to discuss matters, but it has not been taken further.

Mr Brezhnev has made some further suggestions. In looking at that, we must remember the number of *SS20s* deployed on the ground—way way ahead of anything we have, so that in certain *circumstances it would suit* the Soviet Union to have a moratorium.

We are concerned to have nuclear arms reduction with genuine balance. We canno thave reduction which would leave one side better off than the other.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Gas Levy Bill, remaining stages. Private Bill: Greater London Council (General Powers) (No 2) Bill, report.

House of Lords

Today at 2.30: Debates on need to strengthen Britain's air defences and implication of decision to acquire Trident missile system. Marriage *Enabling Bill, second reading.*

New peer

Lord Swann, formerly Sir Michael Swann, former chairman of the BBC, was introduced.

Need to discover way to enforce reinstatement

There was no evidence that if the closed shop had been banned under the Government's industrial relations legislation, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council would have behaved any less irresponsibly in the case of Miss Joanna Harris, **Mr David Waddington**, Under Secretary for employment, said during questions.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington, C) asked whether the Government was concerned at the lack of employment protection afforded to people like Miss Joanna Harris and other victims of local government closed shops.

Does the Government (he asked) consider the present legislation adequate to protect the rights tc work of these people?

Mr Waddington, *(Clitheroe, C)*: Nothing could be less satisfactory than the spectacle of a decent hard working girl being drummed out of her job by a bunch of mean minded councillors more interested in socialist doctrines than in their own employees. (Conservative cheers.)

I *freely concede that monetary* compensation is not enough in that sort of situation. The difficulty is that no-one has yet found a way of enforcing reinstatement.

There is no evidence that if the closed shop had been banned or declared void in our legislation this particular council would have behaved any less irresponsibly.

These are matters discussed in our green paper and I hope Mr Adley will not be backward in coming forward with suggestions. They will all be considered.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab): Is it not scandalous that this Government should talk about this one isolated position when this same lousy rotten Government has thrown more than a million people out of their jobs in less than two years? (Labour cheers.)

Mr Waddington: I do not think the right of someone not to join a trade union is an unimportant matter. These are crucially important matters involving individual rights.

Mr Adley, in other exchanges, asked: As strikes and bad industrial relations lead to unemployment, would the minster like to comment on the proposal from Mr Roy Jenkins to penalize strikers through loss of benefits? Is this likely to lead to improved industrial relations?

Mr Waddington: I am bound to agree that it would be a dangerous course to pursue. I read it with some surprise.

It is right to emphasize that it is unnecessary disputes, excessive wage claims and bad industrial relations which have done such damage to our economy.

Mr David Stoddart (Swindon, Lab): The Government's policy is to browbeat workers into accepting lower standards of living. It has embarked on an industrial relations policy of smashing the weak into the ground and caving in to the strong.

Mr Waddington: That is the kind of absurd hyperbole from the Opposition which has brought it into disrepute in recent months.

Over 90,000 who have never had a job

The youth opportunities programme was being expanded to help the young unemployed more,

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said.

He told **Mr Alfred Dubs** (Wandsworth, Battersea South, Lab): At February 12, the provisional number of unemployed young people under age 18 in the United Kingdom who had not been in employment since completing full-time education was 90,075.

This *is* the group of young people which the youth opportunities programme is designed to help and in 1981-82 the programme will provide 440,000 opportunities for training and work experience.

Mr Dubs: Those figures are unacceptably high. We are leading young people to wander the streets with nothing to do except possibly to get in trouble with the law.

Will he guarantee that every one of these young people will be found a place on the yough opportunities programme?

Mr Prior (Lowestoft, C): I want to see every young person with a proper job. But of the 715,000 who left school last year, by Christmas, 90,000 were still unemployed. There were 80,000 on the youth opportunities programme.

So by Easter, when the guarantee for last year is complete, it should still be possible to offer all those young people who left school last summer a place on the programme.

We are *expanding the programme* so we should do considerably better in the guarantees and the time when people get on a scheme next year.

Sir William Elliott (Newcastle Upon Tyne, North, C): By the time we reach the end of March, 90,000 young people in the Northern Region will have been through the job opportunities scheme. Half of those are in full employment now.

Is this an excellent thing—to encourage more of the young to take part in employment through the scheme rather than to seek full employment and get into a state of frustration?

Mr Prior: Yes, the North East is a particularly difficult area. It has been remarkable how the scheme has kept up. More employers should take part and we wish for a greater element of training in the scheme so we may equip young people for tomorrow's jobs.

Answering a later question, **Mr Prior** said this month 926,000 *people were receiving help in one* way or another in their jobs.

Mr Peter Morrison, Under Secretary for Employment (City of Chester, C), in reply to a later question, said that the Government hoped to publish shortly a discussion paper on training for the 1980s, which was intended to lead to a joint programme of action by Government, industry and the educational and training services, to improve the effectiveness of Britain's national training arrangements.

Greater protection for battered wives

House of Lords

Domestic violence was an evil which had tainted faimly life for many years, **the Earl of Mansfield**, Minister of State, Soctish Office, said when he moved the second reading of the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) Bill. He said there were no accurate figures of the extent of wife battering but it was almost certainly very much higher than the number of reported cases.

The Bill would recognise that both parties to a marriage should have rights of occupancy in the matrimonial home, and would provide protection to a spouse or to children who were at risk of physical or mental injury as a result of the conduct of the other spouse.

Where a wife who was being ill-treated by her husband wanted to leave him she might be deterred from doing so by the fear of becoming homeless.

Although the Bill was drafted in terms which applied equally in favour of a husband or wife, it was expected that the chief beneficiary would be wives.

The Bill provided the support of Socts cipil law to the criminal code so that a spouse who was at risk of vilence could take steps to protect herself from assault or molestation by the other spouse.

In that kind of situation the Bill would help a wife in two distinct ways. It gave her a right to occupy the family home, even where her husband was the owner or tenant. It enabled her to seek a court order excluding her husband from the home because of the risk of violence to her or the children.

Lord Ross of Marnock (Lab, for the Opposition, said the Bill was in many ways courageous and wise.

The Bill was read a second time.

SPORT

Football

Leicester turn to Cruyff for their salvation

Jock Wallace may have pulled off a dramatic coup yesterday when he persuaded Johan Cruyff, the Dutch World Cup player to consider joining first division strugglers, Leicester City. Cruyff said last night: "I've promised him an answer in the next day or so." Arsenal, Brighton, Chelsea and Dumbarton have all chased the 33-year-old Cruyff who is expected to collect £5,000 per game if he goes to Filbert Street.

"The financial side of things has been agreed", Mr Wallace said. "All that is left now is the formality of the player's business affairs to be sorted out."

There is a chance Cruyff could make his first appearance in Saturday's home game against Nottingham Forest. Mr Wallace said: "I have been after Cruyff for a long time and am absolutely delighted to have got him. He will be the biggest draw in the first division."

Apart from his obvious crowd appeal, Leicester feel Cruyff can play a big part in keeping them in the top flight. They have shown an improvement during the past month, winning three of their last four games—against Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur.

Cruyff,(bracketed with Pele in the "super-star" class, retired from football in May, 1978. He returned to the game with Los Angeles Aztecs and Washington Diplomats. When the latter club folded Cruyff became a free agent. Cruyff, Europe's highest-paid professional when he played for Barcelona for five seasons, cannot return to league football in Spain because of tax problems.

Arsenal and Chelsea refused to break their wage structure to accommodate him—but now Leicester are ready to pay him more than double the amount the Scottish side, Hibernian, gave George Best for coming out of retirement last season.

Alan Bennett, the Leicester Secretary, admitted there were still a few problems to overcome. "There are a number of testimonial and friendly games Cruyff is committed to and these have got to be sorted out. We would want him to be here regularly once he signs—not popping back every so often to play in a game in Holland or Spain", he said.

Another very expensive young man. Steve Daley, has ended one of the most drawn out and cimplicated transfer sagas by signing for Seattle Sounders for £300,000. This rercesents a loss of over £1 million to Manchester City, who signed Daley from Wolverhampton Wanderers 18 months ago for £1.4 million. However, Tommy Hutchison, City's former Scotland World Cup player, who has played such a vital part in the Maine Road revival will not now be joining Seattle.

City agreed to let him spend the summer in the United States when he was signed from Coventry City for £47,500. But Hutchison has had second thoughts and wants a complete rest this summer.

Gerry Francis has rejoined Queen's Park Rangers from Crystal Palace for £150,000. The deal was completed after x-rays gave Francis a clean bill of health. Francis left Loftus Road for £465,000 six years ago. The former England captain has not played for a month after a virus infection, but he still hopes to step out for Rangers in Saturday's home game against Sheffield Wednesday.

Francis is the fourth player to follow the manager, Terry Venables, from Palace to Rangers. The others are Burridge, Fenwick and Flanagan.

Brighton have placed Gerry Ryan, a Republic of Ireland forward, on the transfer list. Also available are the goalkeepers, Graham Moseley and Tony Knight, and a former Swindon midfield player, Ray McHale.

Martin O'Neill's proposed transfer from Nottingham Forest to Norwich City will not go through before he has had further talks with the Forest manager, Brian Clough, and his assistant, Peter Taylor. O'Neill had a telephone conversation with Norwich after his talks with their manager, Ken Brown, over the weekend. O'Neill said: "I am reasonably happy with the terms offered by Norwich but I haven't given an answer yet."

Inside forward?: Barry Watling, the manager of Maidstone United, went to prison over the weekend to assess a player. He took a team to Maidstone Jail to take part in a match against the prisoners. He was also asked to assess one of the inmates.

Mr Watling said: "The lad had evidently asked to follow a career in football and the governor wanted me to assess his ability. I was impressed, the guy showed tremendous skill. If I had seen him playing on the park I would have approached him and asked if he could train with us. Unfortunately he is 22 years old and is a long-term prisoner."





The motivators: Francis (left), who will steer the Rangers promotion drive, and Cruyff, who may try a U-turn with Leicester.

Cricket

Waiting for the flood waters to recede

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Georgetown, Feb 24

Any hope of playing cricket here today had been abandoned by half past eight this morning. Although there was no rain in the night—there has been none to speak of since Sunday—the Bourda Oval is still saturated. The Guyana match, due to have started last Saturday and finished today, has therefore been and gone without a ball being bowled.

The groundsman is hopeful of being able to provide conditions fit for a one-day game tomorrow (which had been originally intended as a free day), though it will need only one heavy shower to make even that impossible. At Berbice, where the second of the tour's two one-day internationals should be played on Thursday, the ground is fit.

Thought is alrdeay being given to what to do if there is enough rain in Georgetown in the next two days to put Saturday's Test match in doubt. No one here is happy with the sky, which still looks unsettled, and being below sea level (at high tide) the Bourda must be the slowest drying Test ground in the world. It would be possible to look at it on Friday morning, if it were under water, and to rule out with some confidence the chances of any play before next Tuesday at the eaerliest. That could not be said even of Old Trafford in a bad year.

All being well the floods will recede. If not there would be little point in remaining in Guyana. In 1976 the third Test match between West Indies and India was switched from Georgetown to Port of Spain, where only eight days earlier the second had finished, because of the waterlogged state of the Bourda Oval. This, conceivably, could happen again. An alternative is Barbados, but the third Test match is due to start there anyway on March 13.

Jamaica is too far away and Antigua, the venue for the fourth Test, would be unable at such short notice both to accommodate the party and to stage an extra match. St Vincent probably could, but there the facilities are inadequate. With three full days to go before the second Test is due to start, and the sun shining brightly, no commitments are being made. My own guess is that we shall see Test play here, and that the match is more likely to be abandoned than played elsewhere.

The pitch, ironically, is in perfect condition. There is no better ground for batting than Bourda; at its best the outfield is fast and beautifully smooth, and this morning, as it lay open to the sun and the breeze, the pitch—though surrounded by a swamp—was as dry as a bone and fit for a Test match.

This afternoon the police ground, which is above sea level, provided the players with somewhere for some sort of a practice. On the nine-hole golf course, out among the cane fields, the caddies in their bare feet found the paddling easiest.

JAIPUR: Women's International: India, 308 for 9 dec and 195 for 6 dec; England, 212 for 8 dec and 17 for 1. Match drawn.

BRIDGETOWN: Shell Shield: Combined Islands 139 and 236; Barbados, 391. Barbados won by an innings and 16 runs.

Willis goes to hospital for knee operation

Bob Willis, the Warwickshire fast bowler, who returned home from the England tour of the West Indies on Saturday with a knee injury, will go to hospital today for an exploratory operation.

He has seen a specialist in Birmingham who diagnosed possible cartilage trouble. The Warwickshire manager, David Brown, said yesterday: "Bob is hoping that they find some cartilage trouble. If this is what has caused his problem it can be put right and we are all hoping that he will be ready for the start of next season."

Willis said: "I am encouraged by the specialist's diagnosis. I hope that it turns out to be a cartilage and that I shall make a 100 per cent recovery".

Malone may not return to Old Trafford

Mick Malone, Lancashire's Australian fast bowler, has suffered recurrence of an elbow injury and may not return to Old Trafford this summer.

Malone has been advised to have an operation, but a specialist has warned him that only temporary relief could be assured. Malone has offered to "come over to bowl at half pace under handicap or shall we call it a day?"

Jack Bond, the manager, and Cedric Rhoades, the chairman, were discussing the problem yesterday with Hogg's future, uncertain after a counter-offer from warwickshire, Lancashire's attack may be limited to Radford, Allott and Lee this summer. Clive Lloyd, the new captain, will be consulted.

Squash rackets

Two girls from an island in the sun

By Rex Bellamy
Squash Rackets

Competitors in this evening's semi-final round of the British women's open championship, sponsored by Pretty Polly at Hove, will be playing for personal and national pride, for a permanent niche in the history of the game's most deeply traditional tournament, and for prizes ranging from £700 to £1,500. The pairings are: Vicki Hoffmann (Adelaide) v Rae Anderson (Melbourne) and Margaret Zachariah (Melbourne) v Lisa Opie (Guernsey).

These players represent three generations. Miss Zachariah is a link with the closing years of the Heather McKay era, Miss Hoffmann and Miss Anderson are graduates of the post-McKay Australian school, and Miss Opie states a case for the future. The title has gone to Australia for 19 consecutive years. The extraordinary thing is that the chance of a first British winner since 1961 rests not with the host nation's most highly ranked players, but with a richly talented ingénue, a potter's daughter, from an island with only 10 squash courts.

This has already been a particularly exciting tournament for Melbourne, Guernsey and, in more general terms, for the embodied dividends of a junior development scheme in which the Women's Squash Rackets Association and the Sports Council have invested heavily. Miss Opie and Ruth Strauss, both 17, Martine le Moignan, aged 18, and Alison Cumings, aged 19, have all advanced their reputations.

The Channel Islanders are playing the starring roles. In the opinion of Miss Zachariah, who has a wealth of experience to support her judgments, "Lisa can vary the pace more, but the two are very close. At the moment they are the loveliest junior players in the world. They see the ball well, their movement is graceful and economical, and they are level-headed: more so than many seniors. To be so level-headed at that age is incredible."

Tony Swift, Canada's national coach, who was doing a similar job in Britain when he shared a court with Miss Opie on her native island six years ago, reckons the "easy-going outlook" must arise from the Guernsey life-style.

"Lisa is the most intelligent player I have seen here. She moves the ball beautifully, has her opponent going to the corners, and varies her pace nicely. It was no surprise to me that she beat Sue Cogswell. Martine has the wrist to play straight even when the ball is behind her. She's a deceptive mover, floating around, and looks casual. She waves her racket about like a conductor's baton and you never quite know where the ball's going, especially on the forehand."

This is the third time Miss Zachariah has reached the last four in defiance of the seedings. Her game has been sharpened by tougher matches than Miss Opie needed to play. But Miss Opie can be encouraged by three facts: she is still making her reputation rather than risking it, she recently beat Miss Zachariah, and her results and present form suggest that she can beat anyone as long as she can play her best squash under persistent pressure.

Miss Anderson, ranked sixth in Australia, has had recent wins over Miss Hoffmann, the No 1, and Rhonda Thorne, the No 2. But Miss Hoffmann, the defending champion, is more accustomed to big occasions and may welcome the fact that Miss Anderson plays a more patterned game than either of the British competitors—Felicity Hargreaves and Miss le Moignan—who made Miss Hoffmann look anxious and vulnerable.

We know what Miss Zachariah and Miss Hoffmann can and will do. The unpredictable factor is the wave of inspiration that is carrying their opponents along. Could it still be rising?

Shaw given a new stage for his wit and wisdom

The door to the international scene has been left ajar for Gary Shaw, the young Aston Villa forward who plays for England Under-21 against the Republic of Ireland at Anfield today.

Shaw, at the spearhead of Aston Villa's assault on the league title, is, at 19, arguably British football's brightest prospect. He has sat on the substitute's bench for the last two young England games without receiving a call.

The under-21 team manager, Dave Sexton, has decided to omit Fashanu and Goddard, whose ability at this level he already knows, and teams Show with Stoke's Lee Chapman and David Hodgson of Middlesbrough in a 4-3-3 line-up.

Other newcomers in the side are Coventry's small full back Danny Thomas, the Sheffield Wednesday defender, Mark Smith, Everton's Steve McMahon, and Chapman. McMahon, a former Goodison Park ball boy, has made a remarkable impact in his first season as a regular in the Everton midfield and looks a good enough prospect for a full cap to justify his decision not to opt for Irish qualification through his parents.

England will be under a new leadership, that of Queen's Park Rangers', Terry Fenwick.

Although the senior manager, Ron Greenwood, decided the composition of the team, Mr Sexton awarded the captaincy to Fenwick. "Terry was my choice because I think he will make a good leader," Mr Sexton explained.

The pinnacle of Fenwick's career until now was the winning goals for Palace in the FA Youth Cup finals o f1977 and '78 against Aston Vilal and Everton.

The Irish republic, making a rare appearance at this level, include two full internationals, Terry Donovan, of Aston Villa, and Paul McGee, of Preston North End.

"We have a team with less experience than England, but it is important we play at this level more often if we are to develop our international standing," Terry Conroy, the manager, said. An Orient defender, Henry Hughton, takes a step towards joining his older brother, Chris, in the full international team, and Liverpool reserves, Kevin Sheedy and Ron Whelan get a rare chance to play on the Anfield pitch in an important game.

ENGLAND UNDER-21: J. Lukic (Leeds United), D. Thomas (Coventry City), T. Fenwick (Queen's Park Rangers, Captain), R. Moses (West Bromwich Albion), P. Dyson (Coventry City), M. Smith (Sheffield Wednesday), G. Shaw (Aston Villa), C. Johnston (Middlesbrough), L. Chapman (Stoke City), S. McMahon (Everton), D. Hodgson (Middlesbrough). Substitutes: Hesford (Blackpool), Fashanu (Norwich City), P. Goddard (West Ham United), M. Duxbury (Manchester United), M. Proctor (Middlesbrough).

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND UNDER-21: P. Bonner (Celtic), A. Whelan (Manchester United), J. McDonagh (Bohemians), J. Anderson (Preston North End), H. Hughton (Orient), R. Whelan (Liverpool), H. Atkinson (Wolverhampton Wanderers), K. Sheedy (Liverpool), J. O'Connor (Athlone), T. Donovan (Aston Villa), A. McGee (Preston North End).

US league and federation face suspension

Zürich, Feb 24.—The United States federation and the North American League have until Saturday to declare adherence to football's laws or face suspension from FIFA, the international federation.

The executive board of FIFA, which has 150 member associations, ordered in December that "major variations" of the North American League's style of play be abandoned within 90 days.

Today, four days befode the deadline, a FIFA spokesman, René Courte, said: "We have no indication" that the order will be obeyed. He said the United States Federation had forwarded FIFA's instructions to the league in mid-January. "By the end of the month we want to hear that FIFA's instructions are fully complied with and the laws of the game are fully applied".

FIFA say the league violate rules in setting an arbitrary offside line 35 yards from the goal and in permitting teams three substitutions, one more than is accepted internationally. "FIFA is very anxious that these 'experiments' as they call them, are stopped."

Should the order be ignored, he added, suspension of the league was probable, and if the United States federation had not pressed for compliance, it would face a similar punishment. Suspension could entail a ban on play outside the United States against FIFA-affiliated clubs and on the use of FIFA-approved referees.

FIFA last suspended a member association in the mid-1960s, when the Australian federation violated rules concerning transfers.—AP.

David has giant doubts about slinging out Goliath

Tel Aviv, Feb 24.—Andy Gray, Britain's most expensive footballer, was left on the bench today when Jock Stein, the Scotland manager, announced his side to face Israel in tomorrow's World Cup qualifying match here. His decision to make the £1.5m striker redundant in the Ramat Gan Stadium serves to underline the strength of the Scottish attack.

Even without the scoring prowess of the Wolverhampton man Mr Stein's strike force is one of the most potent assembled by a Scotland manager.

Gray, who failed to break down the defensive wall erected by Portugal in a goalless draw at Hampden Park in October, makes way for Steve Archibald, of Tottenham, who will win his fifth cap. The needle-sharp former Aberdeen player, who has made an impact in English football by scoring 23 goals so far this season, will occupy the main striker's role with assistance from Dalglish.

Mr Stein also recognized that the traditional wing play of Robertson, of Nottingham Forest, was essential to give the team width, so Gray was relegated to substitute.

At the back Mr Stein has preferred the rugged toughness of the in-form Burns, the Nottingham Forest central defender, instead of Miller, of Aberdeen.

The recall of Wark, of Ipswich Town, was also expected after a prolific season in which he has already scored 29 goals.

However, since Wark and Souness, of Liverpool, play similar central midfield roles for their clubs, Mr Stein was left with a dilemma which he managed to solve by giving Souness a roving commission wide on the right flank.

That was the role Wark filled with considerable lack of success in his previous eight appearances for Scotland, but Mr Stein said: "On this occasion we must play Wark in his customary club position. It would be unfair to switch him wide in view of his displays for Ipswich and there is also a feeling I have that Souness may benefit from a bit of variety."

As rain lashed the uncovered stadium today, washing away yesterday's sandstorm, Mr Stein asked his men for a "common-sense approach".

Mr Stein is right to guard against complacency, for fewer than 30 miles from here David slew Goliath in Biblical times. Can Israel kill the giant?

Mr Mansell has picked two uncapped 20-year-olds in Shabti Levi and Moshe Sinai in attack, but has dropped Moshe Griani, of Brighton.

ISREL: Mizrahi, Bar, Machness, J. Cohen, A. Cohen, N. Cohen, Ekhois, Shum, Tabak, Damil, Sinai.

SCOTLAND: A. Rough (Partick Thistle); D. McGrain (Celtic), F. Gray (Nottingham Forest), G. Souness (Liverpool), A. McLeish (Aberdeen), K. Burns (Nottingham Forest), J. Wark (Ipswich Town), K. Dalglish (Liverpool), S. Archibald (Tottenham Hotspur), A. Gemmill (Birmingham City), J. Robertson (Nottingham Forest). Subs, W. Thomson (St Mirren), R. Stewart (West Ham), W. Miller (Aberdeen), D. Narey (Dundee United), A. Gray (Wolverhampton Wanderers).

Rowing

Keble are dark horses

By Jim Railton

Strong rumours from the rivers Isis and the Cam hint of no change at the top by the end of this week's Torpids and Lent races. Oriel, head of the river at Oxford, boast five Oxford triallists including Isis oarsmen, Todd and Holland, together with a Goldie oarsman, Pitt. Oriel's all-round strength should keep them ahead.

Keble might conceivably appear as dark horses with last year's Oxford stroke, Diserens, leading them and Oxford's lightweight captain, Jordan, and a junior international, Donaldson, on board. Another Keble Blue, a Canadian, Moran, may just be enticed into the Keble crew. Exeter, who won the junior eights at the Southern Universities regatta, and Pembroke, who took the novices' title, could make some progress in the chart.

On the Cam, Lady Margaret Boat Club are strongly fancied to hold their head title with four of the crew from last year's top May boat, which rowed over undisturbed on all four days. Their likely supremacy is heightened by Lady Margaret winning the light and shell coxed fours last term.

Fitzwilliam, who start in sixth place, could make progress and are considered fast having won the senior B title at the Peterborough head race recently, but they cannot go ahead. Perhaps even faster than Fitzwilliam is Churchill College, who start third in the second division. They won the Senior C at Peterborough head and are seeking promotion to the first division: Downing are also expected to make progress. They have been guided so far by a woman coxswain who will, presumably do so again unless she is "lifted" by the Blue boat in an attempt to upstage Oxford.

Regazzoni recuperates

Washington, Feb 22.—Clay Regazzoni, the Swiss formula one motor racing driver, was resting at the Georgetown University medical centre here today after undergoing an 11-hour operation to help him recover the use of his legs.—Agence France-Presse.

French in Milk Race

France are back in the Milk Race, nine years after vowing never to enter the event again. They withdrew after an incident 600 yards from the line, involving Dutch riders, that cost Marcel Duchemin the individual title in 1972.

Basketball

Wembley line-up may depend on suspensions

By Nicholas Harling

The two finalists in next month's National Championship play-off at Wembley are likely to be determined by suspensions as much as by events on court. Both Team Fiat, Birmingham, and Crystal Palace, the National League's top teams, who are expected to contest the showpiece on March 14, are likely to be without key players in the previous night's semi-final round games.

Palace, who have lost the league title to Birmingham, but can still qualify for the European Cup next season by winning the play-off, already knew they would be without Bett, who has been suspended for one match for dangerous play in the crucial game between the clubs three weeks ago. On Monday, the English Basketball Association confirmed that Roma, Palace's centre, would incur the same punishment for bringing the game into disrepute by flinging a chair on his dismissal from the same game.

Now Birmingham stand to lose their forward, Samson, who was also sent off after scoring 17 points in Saturday's game in which Ovaltine, Hemel Hempstead, ended the champions' hopes of completing their programme with an undefeated record. Hemel Hempstead might have won with less to spare than their 95—83 win suggests had Sanson not got involved with the referee, Alan Richardson, four minutes from the end.

Claiming unsuccessfully that he had been fouled in the act of shooting by Pace, Samson was further incensed when the official promptly awarded Pace two foul shots after being fouled by White. Mr Richardson alleged that he was then "brushed" by Samson, whose case will be dealt with shortly by the EBBA's technical sub-committee.

Pace (38) and White (33) finished as the game's top scorers. Birmingham will doubtless be grateful if they avoid Hemel Hempstead on Wembley's first night. Sunderland, who are Birmingham's more likely first opponents, beat Stockport 85-67 in their penultimate league game, although Martin (34) was his usual accurate self for the losers.

Badminton

Padukone may have to miss triangular match

By Richard Streeton

Prakash Padukone, the All-England champion, is out of the Indian team for the two-day men's triangular match with England and Sweden starting today at Preston. Prakash, who wrenched a knee at Gloucester on Sunday in a match against England, had treatment at the Preston North End football ground, but a slight hamstring strain was diagnosed and he was advised to rest for two or three days.

Prakash's withdrawal is obviously a great blow to India's hopes of winning the tournament, which has prize money of £5,000 and is sponsored by Crest Hotels. Having just been beaten 5—0 by England in an international series, the Indians are hoping to restore confidence and prestige. Sanjay Sharma will repace Padukone in singles and doubles.

Egland without their women's singles and doubles players are not nearly so strong in a team event. Ray Stevens, the national champion, is still absent through injury, and England's four singles representatives must be as young a team as they have ever had, with Jolly, aged 21, Goode, 20, and Baddeley and Yates, both 19. Michael Tredgett, who is just the wrong side of 30, brings up the average age, and he and Jolly play the doubles together.

Sweden probably have the best chance of emerging overall winners as they have a far more experienced team, including Sture Johnsson and Thomas Kihlstrom, than either of their rivals. The players are split into four round-robin groups of three in singles, with the group winners meeting in the semi-final round. The doubles is a straightforward draw event. Play starts at 6.0 tonight and tomorrow there are two sessions starting at 1.0 and 6.30.

(England), P. Ganguli (India) and C.

SINGLES: Group one: S. Sharma (India), S. Karlsson (Sweden), A. Goode (England); two: S. Johnsson (Sweden), S. Baddeley (England) and V. Singh (India); three: K. Jolly (England), P. Ganguli (India) and C. Nordin (Sweden); four: T. Kihlstrom (Sweden), S. Modi (India) and N. Yates (England).

DOUBLES: First round: Kihlstrom and Karlsson, bye; Sharma and U. Pawar (India) v Goode and Baddeley; Singh and Ganguli v Nordin and L. Wengberg (Sweden); Jolly and M. G. Tredgett (England), bye.

Hockey

Charmed circle: Oxford University survived this goalmouth scramble at Lord's yesterday.

Degree of desperation helps Cambridge share honours

By Sydney Friskin

Oxford 2 Cambridge 2

Honours were divided in the University match at Lord's yesterday, with Oxford and Cambridge sharing the Sun Life Bowl after a thrilling finish to a splendid game. The last drawn match in the series occurred in 1974, when no goals were scored.

Until half a minute before the end, Oxford seemed to have had the match safely tucked away, and victory, had they held out, would have been well deserved. They had almost complete control of the second half, with Tanner playing his best game of the season in midfield.

But Cambridge, when all seemed lost, provided a fairy-tale ending. They brought on Gregory to replace Merttens for the purpose, as we imagined, of earning his Blue. His centre from the left, delivered in forlorn hope, sent three Cambridge men in pursuit, and after the ball had twice been deflected, Atkinson's lunging stick sent it soaring into the net.

Both teams, who kept the game flowing through the brilliance of their half-backs and excellent support from the deep defenders, reaped their rewards. The harvest would have been richer but for the brilliant saves of the goalkeepers, particularly from corners. Oxford's drill at short corners was more effective, and it was Westcott, not Gordon, who did the striking.

Cambridge were unsuccessful with a string of short and long corners before Oxford took the lead in the eighth minute. A free hit by Precious sent Shrimpton away on the right and his centre was well picked up by Blackett, who drove a superb shot past Long. The Cambridge goalkeeper survived a severe test in the 13th minute, when he stopped a hard shot by Westcott from a short corner. It was fortunate for him that Westcott's shot on the follow-up just missed the target.

Cambridge had the larger share of the corners before the interval. Their midfield was inspired mainly by Diamond, who started a move which brought the equalizer in the 23th minute. Cowan came forward in support, and made the opening for Atkinson to score from close range.

Ten minutes into the second half Oxford took the lead again. The Cambridge goalkeeper was penalized for a dangerous kick, and Westcott converted the short corner. This was the beginning of a long period of Oxford ascendancy, with Tanner coming into his own. Their defenders were quick enough to rush out from the line and smother several shots from corners by Dodds, who was again the best of the Cambridge defenders

Oxford continued to attack so strongly that it would have been no surprise had they scored again. Precious set up another chance in the twenty-fourth minute for Blackett, and Cambridge were penalized for stick obstruction to provide Oxford with yet another short corner. Westcott's shot was hard and true, but Locke saved near the line.

Cambridge seemed to have lost their last chance when Dodds missed the mark from a short corner, which they were somewhat lucky to earn. But in the dying seconds, Gregory gave them the kiss of life, and after a few minutes the hands of both captains were on the Sun Life Bowl, which was won last year by Cambridge.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: N. J. Haddock (St Edward's and St Edmund Hall); J. Gordon (Kingston GS and Lincoln), A. Jenner (Tonbridge and Brasenose), R. S. Luddington (KCS Wimbledon and St Edmund Hall), P. E. Kumleben (Michael House, Natal, and University, captain), M. Precious (Scarborough College and University), R. S. Tanner (Hastings MGS and Lincoln), D. G. Westcott (Cranleigh and Brasenose), S. P. Shrimpton (St George's, Weybridge, and Trinity), H. W. Blackett (St Edward's and Christ Church), C. Stirling (Wellington and St Peter's, sub, S. Lawless, St Edward's and Christ Church).

CAMBRIDGE: P. W. Long (Perse and St Catharine's); R. D. A. Dodds (Kingston GS and St Catharine's, captain), N. J. Reeves (Windsor GS and Fitzwilliam), A. C. Locke (Burnham GS and St Catharine's), R. M. Mitchell (Felsted and St John's), A. N. Diamond (Kingston GS and St Catharine's), D. J. Mansfield (Bishops Stortford and Pembroke), D. C. Atkinson (Millfield and Downing), C. M. Cowan (Bishops Stortford and St Catharine's), T. J. Walker (Stewart's Melville and Pembroke), R. W. Merttens (Uppingham and St Catharine's, sub, N. D. Gregory, King Edward VII Kings Lynn, and St Catharine's).

Umpires: R. Humphrey (Eastern Counties) and Bawa Singh (Midland Counties).

Miss Stevens retires

Johannesburg, Feb 24.—Greer Stevens, South Africa's most successful women's tennis player, announced today that she is retiring. Miss Stevens, aged 24 and plagued by injury since badly damaging her left knee two years ago, made the announcement less than two weeks after her wedding to a South African farmer, Kevin Leo-Smith.

MEXICO CITY: Men's singles, first round: M. Davis (US) beat S. Ball (Australia), 3—6, 6—4, 6—2.

MEMPHIS: Men's Singles, first round (US unless stated): H. Solomon beat F. Gonzalez, 7—5, 6—3; G. Mayer beat S. Mayer, 7—6, 6—2; Tom Gullikson beat W. Scanlon, 6—2, 7—6; T. Wilkinson beat S. Stewart, 6—2, 6—2; H. Gottfried beat R. Simpson (NZ), 6—3, rtd; Y. Noah (France) beat B. Walts, 6—3, 4—6, 6—1.

Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: England v Republic of Ireland (at Anfield).

SECOND DIVISION: Cardiff v Newcastle.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Frickley v Altrincham.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Wellingborough v Barry Town. Southern division: Addlestone and Weybridge v Canterbury; Waterlooville v Salisbury.

FA TROPHY: Third round replay: Worcester City v Hastings United.

WELSH CUP: Fifth round replay: Hereford v Shrewsbury Town.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Barton Rovers v Egham Town.

RUGBY UNION: Under-19 group: Middlesex v Kent (at Osterley). Club matches: Cambridge University v Anti-Assassins (2.30), Newport v Pontypridd (7.0); Plymouth Albion v Exeter University (7.15); Oxford Polytechnic v University of Surrey; RAF Brize Norton v Thames Valley Police.

HOCKEY (2.30): Triangular tournament: Midlands v Yorkshire v Combined Services (at Herring Thorpe, Rotherham, 2.30): Representative match: Aldershot Services v Army Under-21. London League: Guildford v London University. UAU Championship: Semi-final replay: Loughborough v Exeter (at University College, Cardiff). Other matches: Crawley v Sussex Remnants; Essex University v City University; Exeter v Southampton University; Lloyds Bank v Barclays Bank. Women's match: Essex University v City University.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Conditions Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andermatt	150	350	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	-7
Snow excellent							
Avoriaz	134	186	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	-1
Good conditions all round							
Courmayeur	30	200	Good	Varied	Closed	Snow	-1
Worn patches on lower slopes							
Isola 2000	20	50	Icy	Varied	Poor	Cloud	0
Good powder on an icy base							
La Plagne	170	360	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-2
New snow on firm base							
Mürren	120	370	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-4
Spring skiing conditions							
Tignes	180	280	Fair	Crusty	Good	Cloud	-3
Light snowfall, more expected							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
NORWAY					
Finse	—	380	Good	—	-26
Geilo	—	100	Good	—	-16
Gol	—	80	Good	—	-15
Hillehammer	—	80	Good	—	-8
Norefjell	—	55	Hard	—	-9
Oslo	—	45	Good	—	-20
Voss	—	110	Good	—	-18
GERMANY					
Berchtesgaden	50	120	Old sn	—	-5
Garmisch	70	90	Crust	Cloud	-5
Hindelang	70	140	Old sn	—	-7
Kleinwalsertal	140	310	Old sn	—	-9
Mittenwald	30	130	Old sn	—	-6
Oberammergau	[illegible]	130	Old sn	—	-8

SCOTLAND: Cairngorms: Main runs: Only one high level run complete, new snow with many icy patches. Lower slopes: no snow. Vertical runs: [illegible]. Access roads: clear. Snow level: 2,800ft. Glen Shee: Main runs: Only one high level run complete, all others broken. New snow. Lower slopes: limited nursery areas, new snow. Vertical runs: 600ft. Access roads: slight snow. Snow level: 2,000ft. Glencoe: Main runs: Most complete: hard-packed snow with icy patches. Lower slopes: very little snow. Vertical runs: 1,000ft. Access roads: clear. Snow level: 2,500ft. Lecht: Main runs: Only one high level run complete: new snow with icy patches. Lower slopes: limited nursery areas: new snow with icy patches. Vertical runs: [illegible]00ft. Access roads: Clear. Snow level: 2,000ft.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Islanders 4, Minnesota North Stars 1.

Leading goalscorers

FIRST DIVISION: S. Archibald (Tottenham), [illegible]; J. Wark (Ipswich), 20; G. Shaw (Aston Villa), 17; S. Moran (Southampton), 17; G. Crooks (Tottenham), 16; K. Dalglish (Liverpool), 16; J. Fashanu (Norwich), 16; P. Mariner (Ipswich), 16; M. Robinson (Brighton), 16.

SECOND DIVISION: D. Cross (West Ham), [illegible]; M. Poskett (Watford), 17; M. Harford (Newcastle—15 for Lincoln), 16; C. Lee (Chelsea), 16; D. Moss (Luton), 16; B. Stein (Luton), 16.

THIRD DIVISION: A. Kellow (Exeter), 25; D. Kemp (Plymouth), 23; D. Hales (Charlton), 21; A. Birch (Chesterfield), 20; R. Moore (Rotherham), 19; C. Davies (Fulham), 18.

FOURTH DIVISION: J. Cooke (Peterborough), 22; A. Cork (Wimbledon), 21; J. Lumby (Mansfield—18 for Tranmere), 20; G. Hobson (Lincoln), 19; D. Spence (Southend), 19; S. Phillips (Northampton), 18; A. Walsh (Darlington), 17.

هكذا من الأصل

SPORT

Rugby Union

London may move festival to Richmond

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The London clubs' rugby festival, which has started off their season for the past two years first at Wembley and then at Twickenham—may be switched to yet another venue and played on a Sunday rather than a Saturday, provided that new sponsors can be found.

The experiment last September of playing early matches on the Stoop memorial ground in the morning was not an unqualified success. But the RFU, who are concerned to protect their pitch, have declined to allow the organizers to stage all the games at the national ground, and they are unwilling to supply it for use on a Sunday.

So the London clubs are thinking now of playing their third tournament at Richmond Athletic Ground on the second Sunday in September. If it were staged seven days earlier, it would conflict with the Harlequins sevens which is an established and popular event in its own right.

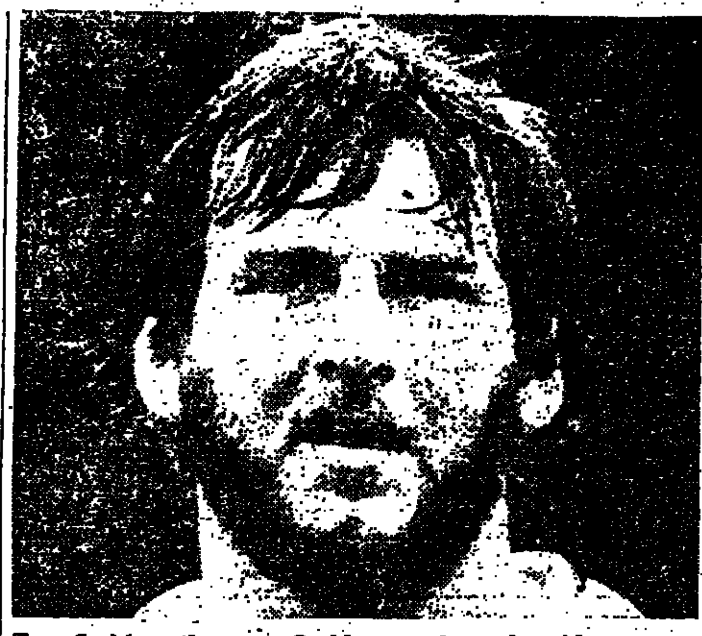
The brewers, Charrington & Co, have, with some reluctance, withdrawn their support. They put up £20,000 at first last September but I understand they finished up being considerably more generous. The tournament at Twickenham attracted an attendance of about 7,000.

The reconstituted senior clubs sub-committee of the RFU is meeting in London this evening under the chairmanship of Ken Chapman, a former president of the Union. It appears that at least half of its membership—from London and the Midlands—is united in a determination to continue with merit tables rather than with the club-league system proposed in the Burgess report and now due for further investigation by the RFU competitions sub-committee.

The members of the committee are Eric Franks (Blackheath), David Boult (Liverpool), Tom Mahoney (Bristol), Ken Phillips (Oxford), Alan Skeats (Richmond), John Smith (Gosforth) and Don White (Northampton).

Joint winners

Lynn Parry and Steve McDevitt, who are 15, are joint winners of the Coventry-Godiva Supporters Club Bursary award. They will be provided with equipment worth £...


Tom Smith, a threat to Cuthbertson in senior side.

Dods has a chance to claim a Scotland cap

By Peter West

Tom Smith, the towering Gala lock forward who won 26 caps for Scotland at backrow and was a reserve in the Calcutta Cup match last weekend, has been chosen to play at lock in the B international against France at Ayr on Saturday week.

The side includes only two men—the full back Peter Dods, and a wing, Roger Baird—who played for Scotland in their successful B matches against Ireland and France last season. It will be captained by the strapping Watsonian centre, Ewan Kennedy.

Duncan Wilson, of Boroughmuir, who is 29, has been recalled to play at stand-off half in his first B game since 1977. He had a fine match for Edinburgh against the All Blacks in October 1979, but has been unable to command a regular club place this season. The shrewd Heriot's centre, Harry Burnett, will also be making his first B appearance for four years. Burnett was captain in a losing cause against Ireland in 1977.

Smith, Kennedy, Burnett and Dods will all have something special to play for before the selectors choose their senior team for their last international, against Ireland at Murrayfield, on March 21. Smith, but for an injury in the trial, would have won senior honours in Paris. The gallant Cuthbertson had a hard time of it at Twickenham against Beaumont at the front of the line-out, and the selectors may bring in Smith to jump at number four and move Tomes to number two.

There may be renewed pressure at the selectors' meeting for a switch of positions between Irvine and Hay, or for the move of Irvine to the wing and the introduction of Dods at full back. Dods kicked four important goals in the B internationals last season.

The selectors may also make a change at centre to stiffen the midfield defence. David Johnston, who won four caps last season, is fit again and obviously a strong contender. But Burnett and Kennedy will not feel their cause is yet lost. Burnett has had a good season for Heriot's and Edinburgh. Kennedy now has to expunge the memories of an unhappy trial in which he was demoted from the senior side at half time.

SCOTLAND B (v France B at Ayr, March 7): P. Dods (Gala); A. Armstrong (Jordanhill), A. Burnett (Heriot's FP), E. Kennedy (Watsonians, Captain), R. Baird (Kelso); D. Wilson (Boroughmuir), G. Hunter (Selkirk); G. McGuinness (West of Scotland), R. Cunningham (Gosforth), J. Fraser (London Scottish), I. McKie (Sale), T. Smith (Gala), J. Berthinussen (Gala), P. Lillington (Durham University), E. Paxton (Kelso). Replacements: B. Hislop (Langholm), P. Black (Boroughmuir), K. Macaulay (Gala), G. Irvine (Harrogate), A. Ker (Kelso), P. Steven (Heriot's FP).

A dash of speed slows down Scots

By Steve Elliott

English Univ 34 Scottish Univ 3

Scottish Universities played with great spirit but a lack of cohesion that was superbly exploited by a back row upon whose skill and dash the English Universities' victory was based.

Jeffrey, ironically a Scot, caught the eye most, scattering would-be tacklers with abandon at No 8. More unobtrusively Bennett, on the flank, showed an impressive work rate and skilful ball handling.

The English made too many mistakes at scrum half—where Parker had a curate's egg of a match—for the three-quarter line to prosper consistently, but when the Scots flagged in the closing stages, speed and talent, particularly possessed by Unsworth, Smith and Thomas, were noticeable.

The Scots were well served by O'Rourke, an elusive centre, though his best run in the second half was wasted when he wandered back infield with his wing unmarked outside him. Goudie, Dodds and Holstein were the pick of a well-beaten pack that never surrendered. Holstein, injured in the eighty-first minute of the match, was taken off on a stretcher and replaced by Stewart.

Grant opened the scoring with a penalty for the Scots but naive defence encouraged the bustling Jeffrey to break from the tail of the line and slip the ball to Emeruwa, who scored for Parker, the scrum half, to convert. Grant's second penalty was followed by two penalties for the English from Parker. The interval lead of 16—6 came from a try on the left wing by Thomas after a crisp break in the centre by Carr.

Fifteen minutes after half-time the Scots were still in touch—just—with spirited forward play. A crucial stage came when Jeffrey was late-tackled and the solid Henderson scored from the tap penalty. After this the Scots defence, if not their courage, disintegrated.

Unsworth split their defence and linked with Parker, the lock forward, for Bennett to score under the posts. The other Parker converted. Thomas snapped up a drop pass and scampered in from 60 yards. Smith scored the final try from another break by Carr and the Scots must have appreciated the final whistle.

ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES: J. Unsworth (Liverpool); S. Smith (Lancaster), J. Eagle (Hull), J. Carr (Bristol), D. Thomas (Nottingham), H. Bevan (Durham), P. Parker (Manchester); C. Collins (Loughborough), J. Johnson (Durham), S. Henderson (Durham), M. Pinnegar (Exeter), R. Parker (Newcastle), N. Bennett (Manchester), F. Emeruwa (Manchester), J. Jeffrey (Newcastle).

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES: P. Grant (Aberdeen); G. MacCutcheon (Strathclyde), N. Stronach (Heriot-Watt), J. O'Rourke (Aberdeen), H. Murray (Aberdeen); P. Heaney (Dundee), A. McKay (Dundee); J. Small (Aberdeen), H. Ritchie (Edinburgh), G. Linn (Aberdeen), K. Goudie (Aberdeen), R. Prosser (Dundee), I. Nicol (Edinburgh), S. Dodds (Heriot-Watt), R. Holstein (Aberdeen, rep. M. Stewart, Stirling).

Referee: A. Moulton (Durham).

Hesford restored

Bob Hesford, whom Bristol dropped and England capped against Scotland, is restored by the club for their John Player Cup match against Leicester, the holders, on Saturday. He deputized for Jeavons at No 6 at Twickenham, but returns to his customary position at No 8 for his club.

Golf

Faldo rolls on as Lyle rocks with the rabbits

From Frank Hannigan
New York, Feb 24

The seven-week western segment of the American professional golf tour ended in Los Angeles with stark contrasts between the performances of Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo, the young Britons exploring the United States circuit this winter.

Lyle, the 1980 leader of the European order of merit, did not make a penny in three outings. Moreover, he quickly exhausted his three special exemptions for direct entry into American events that come as fringe benefit to members of the most recent Ryder Cup team. Lyle must now prequalify, a chancy business at best and a demoralizing experience for one accustomed to success at home.

Faldo, on the other hand, is alive and well, if not yet wealthy. His prize money to date—$11,529—is not greater than his expenses, but he has proved, to himself and others, that he can hold his own at the highest level of the game. The confidence he has built on this excursion is sure to make him a better player, at home and abroad. He is on what the American professionals call a "roll"—five consecutive weeks of surviving the 36-hole cut which eliminates half the field.

This is no mean achievement for a neophyte, even one with Faldo's credentials. In fact, players like Faldo and Lyle undergo a kind of culture shock when they approach the American scene. For the most part they go unrecognized; they are paired during the first two rounds with obscure and struggling figures; they have to be aware that—heroes though they were at home—they are not even regarded as peers of the latest batch of Americans trained for the tour in American Universities as scholars of golf—like John Cook, who won the 1980 Crosby tournament, Gary Hallberg, Bob Clampett and Mark O'Meara.

The American tour is structured to favour the status quo. For those who have not yet succeeded there are formidable obstacles. Getting in a practice round on the day before a tournament is not a routine matter, because of pro-am events. Faldo finished the ninth hole of his practice round before 8 am on the day before the Los Angeles Open.

Making the 36-hole cut is the focus of every young pro's existence. Those who do make it pass directly into the field for the next event, by-passing the dreaded 18-hole Monday qualifier. At Los Angeles there were 62 players vying for only 16 places. These creatures are known as "rabbits" because they are allowed only to nibble at the tour's lettuce which, in 1981, will translate into more than $13m in prize money.

Those who fail to qualify begin to prepare for what for most of them will be yet another in a series of blue Mondays. Their desperation intensifies as the year progresses, for unless they win a specified amount, they will be cast into outer darkness and cease to be members of the PGA tour.

Faldo, however, has been able to protect his precious exemptions. He used (or burned) the first of the three when he arrived to play at Phoenix. Should he have an off week he is still assured of a place at the table the next week and, for that matter, the week after that. By this device he hopes to follow the American sun for two more months—through the Houston Open at the end of April. His primary goal was the curiously modest but precise figure of $9,157 to earn his tour card.

The other way of earning a card is as one of 25 survivors of a qualifying system which involves some 600 entrants and two separate 72-hole trials. This is to be avoided if possible. Young players with great amateur records who have since won on the tour, such as Curtis Strange and John Fought, failed to win their cards at the qualifying schools at least once. The rejects are exiled for six months until another qualifying opportunity dawns. Their thoughts are not sanguine.

As a card-carrying member of the American tour, Faldo is not entitled to a starting place in any given tournament. But no longer is he restricted to appearances in 10 American competitions in one calendar year. He is now a dual citizen of golf: four months in the United States at the start of each year and then home for the European tour beginning in May.

Nicklaus's absence is seen as a snub to Palmer

From John Hennessy
Golf Correspondent
Orlando, Feb 24

The absence of Jack Nicklaus from the Bay Hill golf tournament, for the second year in succession, has not passed without comment here. This is Arnold Palmer's tournament, an event that has achieved such popularity since he became associated with Orlando two years ago that it ranks fourth in the television rankings among all golf occasions and attracts 100,000 spectators during the four days of its duration from Thursday to Sunday.

It is well understood that Nicklaus is now of an age, 41, when he feels the need to ration his appearances, but all the same people here feel his failure to make the tiny hop north from his home in Palm Beach in his executive jet amounts almost to a personal snub to Palmer. This might be dismissed as the small thoughts of the small-minded, were it not for the fact that Palmer has obliquely associated himself with Nicklaus's critics.

When asked for his first thoughts after being told that Nicklaus had decided to miss the tournament again, Palmer said: "I didn't really have any. I really didn't think Jack was going to play anyway. That's why I was very cautious about what I said. If I really told you what I was thinking you wouldn't believe it. That wouldn't do me or Jack any good."

Palmer said that he had not decided whether to play in Nicklaus's Memorial tournament in May. "At this point I haven't really made any plans. That is a heavy week for me. I have a President's ball at Latrobe and another commitment on the Tuesday of that week. I may not play because of that."

The other important absentee here is Johnny Miller. Miller has won two tournaments this year and stands at the head of the United States money list, but there is no personal rivalry and this event does not fit into his schedule of playing in only every other tournament.

Olympic Games

Los Angeles to stage women's marathon

Los Angeles, Feb 24.—Women will run an Olympic marathon for the first time at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, the president of the organizing committee, Peter Ueberroth, said here last night. The decision to hold the event, which will be separate from the men's marathon but run over the same course, was made by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board at the start of two days' talks at the site of the 1984 Games.

The longest Olympic running event for women until now has been 1,500 metres, far short of the marathon distance of 26 miles 385 yards. Yesterday's decision was reached despite long and fierce opposition from the Russians and other East European countries, who have little experience in women's marathon running.

Mr Ueberroth quoted the opinion of Dr Anthony Daly, medical director of the Los Angeles Games, that the best women runners could outrun and outlast men in events of 50 miles or more. Referring to the performance of Grete Waitz, of Norway, women's winner of the 1980 New York marathon in a time of 2hr 25min 41sec, Mr Ueberroth said: "That time would have won the gold medal in all men's Olympic marathons until 1952."

The decision to run the men's and women's marathons separately was made oin spite of the view of the International 9mateur Athletic Federation, the controlling body of track and field, who favoured them competing in the same race, with separate placings at the finish. The marathons will be run in August, at the height of the summer, when the Los Angeles smog often lies low over the city.

Tom Bradley, the mayor of Los Angeles, promised again to run a spartan Olympics and to avoid huge debts which have plagued some recent Games. The city has asked for United States Government assistance, mainly in the security field, and Mr Ueberroth read a telegram from President Reagan saying: "Appropriate Government services will be available to assist in the running of the 1984 Games."

Two Olympic villages catering for a total of 8,000 people are to be set in two universities here, but 12,000 athletes and officials are expected and a third village might have to be set up, particularly if some events are held a long way from Los Angeles. Mr Ueberroth said his organizing committee was considering a proposal to hold canoeing and rowing events in Seattle, Washington, about 1,000 miles north of Los Angeles.

The IOC refused the International Volleyball Federation's request to increase the number of competing teams in 1984 from 18 to 20 an dalso turned down a request for an additional boxing weight category.

Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy) and Fallun (Sweden) have applied to stage the 1988 winter Games, and Athens, Nagoya (Japan) and Seoul have applied to stage the summer Games. Melbourne has also applied for the summer Games, but it was reported from Canberra today that the Australian Cabinet have decided not to give financial support to their bid. The hosts will be selected at the next IOC congress, in West Germany, in September.—Agencies.

Boxing

New rival for Cowdell at Wolverhampton

Pat Cowdell, the British featherweight boing champion, will meet an Argentine, Madesto Gome, at Wolverhampton on Monday, March 8. The 26-year-old Gomez, based in Spain, takes the place of the world No 1, Bashew Sibaca, who pulled out after he had been given the opportunity of a world championship contest in South Africa next month.

Gomez, known as the "Bull", has fought 11 times in the last year. The highlight of that spell was to go the distance over 10 rounds with the European champion, Roberto Castanon.

t was announced in California that Rafael Limon, of Mexico, who won the World Boxing Council junior lightweight championship in December, will definitely make his first title defence against Cornelius Boza-Edwards, of Britain, at the Stockton Civic Auditorium on March 8.

It will be the first world title match in the history of Stockton, one of California's most active boxing cities. Limon beat Idlefonso Bethelmi in Los Angeles on December 11 to win the vacant title, the former champion, Alexis Arguello, having moved up to the lightweight division. Boza-Edwards, 25, made a good showing last summer in a bout with Arguello but was stopped in nine rounds.—Agencies.

Tennis

Student beats Miss Wade in first round

Seattle, Feb 24.—Kathleen Cummings, an American university student, beat Virginia Wade, of Britain, in the first round of a $150,000 tournament here last night. Miss Cummings, aged 19, lost the first set to love but took the next set after a tei-break, in which she won seven points in a row after dropping the first, and finally won 0—6, 7—6, 6—3.

Tracy Austin, who told tournament officials on Sunday night that she would be unable to play here because of a bad back, changed her mind yesterday and will now take part in the six-day event. A tournament spokesman said: "She said her back was better and she thought she could play." Miss Austin has been hampered by a sciatic nerve problem this year.

champion and first seed, will meet "Peanut" Lovie in her first game here tomorrow night. The second seed is Hana Mandikova, of Czechslovakia. Another young European, Sylvia Hanika, of West Germany, advanced to the second round by beating Betty Stove, of the Netherlands, 6—7, 6—4, 6—4

RESULTS: First round: R. Blount beat P. Smith, 6—4, 7—6; S. Collins beat N. Bohm (Sweden), 6-4, 6—4; A. Smith beat K. Latham, 5—7, 6—2, 6—1; P. Teeguarden beat R. Fairbank (South Africa), 6—4, 6—3; S. Hanika (WG) beat B. Stove (Netherlands), 6—7, 6—4, 6—4; K. Cummings beat V. Wade (GB), 0—6, 7—6, 6—3; B. Potter beat C. Tanvier, 6—3, 6—3.—Reuter and Associated Press.

PERTH: Exhibition matches (Australians unless stated): K. Rosewall beat R. Laver, 5—6, 6—?, 7—5; B. Borg (Sweden) and V. Gerulaitis (US) beat P. McNamara and A. Roche, 6—4, 5—7, 7—6.

Basketball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Houston Rockets 106, Utah Jazz 102.

Rosslyn Park change schools sevens

Peter Marson

Two changes in the format of the national schoolboys seven-a-side tournament, organized by Rosslyn Park, were announced yesterday by Derek Tanner, the club's sevens mastermind.

Schools beaten in the first round of the Open have passed on to the plate competition: if they failed again there, they had little choice but to pack their bags and head for home. With good sense, and mindful of the heavy expenses incurred by a school, sometimes more than £100, Rosslyn Park have adopted the same pool system for the Open as for the festival, a competition for schools who play rugby in one term only. Schools in both competitions are now assured of four matches.

Again some schools entered for the festival event had been embarrassed by a clash of dates with the Oxford hockey festival. To make life easier for them Mr Tanner has decided to start the tournament with the Open.

Ninety schools have entered the Open and the festival has 75. There will also be the usual events for junior and preparatory schools, and by the time the end 255 schools will have taken part in 499 matches.

In last year's competition Sean Parry-Jones, Llandovery's captain of rugby and cricket, dislocated his neck in a tackle in a match against Ampleforth. Parry-Jones, aged 19, is now paralysed from the neck downwards and confined to a wheelchair.

As a result the Rosslyn Park National Schoolboys Trust Fund has been set up to help schoolboys injured in similar accidents. Already the charity has been underwritten for £25,000 and next Sunday the club are to hold their first fund-raising activity, a charity festival day, which will include a match between Rosslyn Park's first XV and a medical XV, captained by the British Lion, John O'Driscoll.

ROSSLYN PARK: P. Bate; R. Saintier, N. Anderson, S. Fluskey, S. Tiddy; J. Ager, I. Peck; P. Curtis, P. d'A-Keith-Roach, A. Cutter, P. Ackford, P. de Lacey, N. Mantell, A. Ripley (captain), R. Montgomery.

MEDICAL XV: C. Ralston (Bath); C. McDonald (London Scottish), M. Williams (London Welsh), M. Greenhalgh (Rosslyn Park), P. Crowe (Australia); H. Condon (London Irish), A. Lewis (London Welsh); J. Fraser (London Scottish), V. Nicholls (Rosslyn Park), P. Enevoldson (London Irish), P. Jackson (Harlequins), R. Thomas (London Welsh), J. O'Driscoll (London Irish, captain), P. Gough (St Bartholomew's Hospital), A. Dunn (St Mary's Hospital).

Referee: R. Quittenton (London).

Racing

Warwick programme

STUDLEY HURDLE (Novices handicap: £690: 2m)

21104	Calypso Joe, N. Gaseler, 5-11-4	R. Linley
23-1033	Corrib Lad (D), T. Forster, 6-10-11	Mr T. Thomas-Jones
300034	Capvista, J. Spearing, 6-10-3	R. Dickin
30-0f00	Cole Porter, M. Banks, 6-10-2	G. McCourt
000	Jubilee Dancer, K. Bridgwater, 5-10-2	—
4342	Miss Honeypenny, D. Worden, 6-10-2	P. Scudamore
0bf0f	Elbrook, R. Head, 5-10-1	H. Davies
2301	The Britisher (D), A. Jarvis, 4-10-0	R. Crank
0400p4	Churchills, Mrs D. Williams, 5-10-0	R. Crank
f0/2-f00	Perfune, A. Andrews, 7-10-0	M. Richards 7
[illegible]	[illegible]	S. G. Knight

[illegible]

KNIGHTLOW CHASE (Handicap: £1,839: 2½m)

[illegible]

CASTLE CHASE (Novices: £960: 2m)

[illegible]

LOWER SWELL HURDLE (Novices: £2,977: 2m 5f)

[illegible]

WARWICKSHIRE CHASE (Hunters: Amateurs: £631: 3½m 300yd)

[illegible]

BANBURY HURDLE (Handicap: £1,086: 2m)

[illegible]

• Doubtful runner

Warwick selections

By Michael Seely

2.0 Christmas Visit. 2.30 Dawn Fox. 3.0 Cisto. 3.30 BEE STING is specially recommended. 4.0 Sportella. 4.30 Jakaroo.

[illegible]

Big day for Ballywackmacroo

By Michael Seely

The possibility of racing at Huntingdon seemed remote yesterday morning o nthe top of nearby Long Hill at Newmarket. The sun was shining but the ground was frozen and the horses were cantering on the all-weather gallop. Bruce Hobbs was watching his Tolmi, his 1,000 Guineas candidate at work. Tolmi, yet another winning product of that amazing mare, Stilvi, had a premature end to her two-year-old career after beating Kittyhawk in the Princess Margaret Stakes at Ascot. The filly then jarred a joint and did not appear again. "Tolmi is 100 per cent again now", Hobbs said.

Henry Cecil, Michael Stoute and Luca Cumani were also cancelling their strings. Walter Swinburn, Stoute's new jockey was riding out for the first time since his return from India a week ago. At the age of 19, Swinburn has been given the biggest challenge a young rider has faced since Pat Eddery was appointed first jockey to Peter Walwyn. Swinburn's six winners in India included a victory in the Indian Republic Cup

The go-ahead was given at Huntingdon after an 11.30 inspection. The first person I met on the course was Dan Sheppard. My apologies are due to the former senior handicapper whom I described as being dead last week. Mr Sheppard is still alive and kicking and is a steward at Huntingdon. He also plans to visit Wincanton on Thursday to watch Martie's Anger, the American horse trained by his son, Jonathan, who has his first outing in this country in the Kingwell Pattern hurdle. Tim Forster said yesterday that Bob Davies had been engaged to ride Martie's Anger in all his races.

The highlight of the afternoon's racing was a treble of just under 144 to 1 by Steve Smith Eccles. This forceful jockey has never been in more dynamic mood. He won two races for Gavin Pritchard-Gordon, the Ward Hill Top Table Hurdle on Ballywackmacroo and the handicap hurdle, sponsored by the same firm on the top weight, Killer Shark. The finishes to both races had the crowd roaring, as in each case the winning margin was only a short head. Smith Eccles's first victory had been gained on Izzyfast in the Graveley Selling Handicap.


Taking a back seat: Jeff Pearce sits uncomfortably as Captain John jumps the last to win the Jim Holden Chase

Ballywackmacroo is owned by Mrs Jim McCaughey and was bought by David Minton of the Curragh Bloodstock Agency from Kevin Prendergast after the colt had won four races on the Flat in Ireland last season. The winner put up a tough and genuine performance and has now earned a tilt at the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle. "We're staying with David Nicholson for Cheltenham" Pritchard-Gordon said, "so we can have some fun with him about Broadsword."

Killer Shark also showed immense courage in his narrow defeat of Kathie's Lad. "Killer Shark broke a blood vessel on the Flat at Leicester early last season, but since then we have had no trouble with him." The Newmarket trainer plans to give Lord Cadogan's five-year-old one more race over hurdles prior to an early season campaign on the Flat.

STATE OF GOING (official): Warwick: heavy (inspection at 7.30 am); Catterick Bridge: not available (inspection 7.30 am). Tomorrow: Wincanton: good to soft; Lingfield Park good to soft.

Sedgefield

1.45 (2.16) GILESGATE HURDLE (seller: £353: 2m)

SHALOTRA, gr g by Redundant—Long Hill (F. Lafferty Co Ltd) 6-11-10 .... R. Lamb (2-1 fav) 1
"C" Top ...... D. Dutton (5-2) 2
Stubbington Green, D. Atkins (5-1) 3

TOTE: Win, 35p; places, 10p, 10p, 10p. Dual F: 30p. CSF: 70p. T. Craig, at Dunbar. 3l, 15. Tehran Prince (14-1) 4th. 8 ran. The winner was bought in for 1,500 gns. NR: Wind-O-Fortune.

[illegible]

Kilroy Manor, D. Goulding (10-1) 2
Ingham ..... D. Nesbitt (20-1) 3

TOTE: Win, 63p; places, 39p, 63p, 24p, 23p. Dual F: £5.00. CSF: £10.66. M. H. Easterby, at Malton. 2l, 5l. Hareshaw Line, 5-4 fav. Foxbound (11-1) 4th. 21 ran. NR: Gleaming Grass.

3.15 (3.46) BRANSPETH CHASE (Handicap: 1,210: 2½m)

KENLIS b g by Dalesa—Cindy Kate (Mrs H. Haggas) 10-11-13 T. Carmody (13-8 fav) 1
Easby Gold .... C. Hawkins (7-4) 2
[illegible]

[illegible]

Dickinson, Harewood 5l, 5l. Relkotine (33-1) 4th. 9 ran. NR: Athen's Pride, Fanshawe, Fabiola.

4.15 (4.46) TOW LAW CHASE (Div II: Novices: £700: 3m 600yds)

ESTATE AGENT b g by Candy Cane—Crool (G. Leatham) 8-11-0 P. Tuck (5-2) 1
Waile .... T. Carmody (9-4) 2
Sea Lad .... C. Grant (2-1 fav) 3

TOTE: Win, 18p; places, 10p, 16p, 10p; Dual F: 37p. CSF: 86p. M. W. Easterby. Sheriff Hutton. Nk, 10l. Anytime (20-1), 4th, 10 ran. [illegible]

[illegible]

Catterick Bridge card

1.45 GRETA BRIDGE CHASE (Handicap: £1,131: 2m)

1	3320	Lord Greystoke (D), G. Richards, 10-12-2	Doughty
2	-1324	Fairy King (CD), J. FitzGerald, 8-11-9	Carmody
4	2302	Even Melody (D), N. Crump, 12-11-8	Hawkins
6	31b3	Why So (CD), D. Smith, 8-10-7	Grant
7	3-3p0	Helpan, D. Morley, 8-10-6	B. R. Davies
10	2u41	•Spin Again (D), D. Morley, 6-10-0	—
11	2-132	•Staccato (D), D. Morley, 8-10-0	—
13	4033	Deidi (CD), J. Blundell, 10-10-0	D. Goulding

11-4 Even Melody, 3-1 Fairy King, 4-1 Lord Greystoke, Why So, 12-1 Helpan, 14-1 Deidi.

2.15 RIPON OPPORTUNITY HURDLE (Handicap: Selling: £604: 2m)

2	3201	Sealegation (B, D), J. Spearing, 7-11-6	Johnson 5
3	0002	Ladies Man (B, D), W. Clay, 6-11-5	Elliott 5
5	0000	Fendoon (D), J. Bingham, 9-10-13	Janice Foster 5
6	1310	Pretty Boy Floyd (D), G. Lockerbie, 8-10-10	Stringer 5
7	-20f0	Malcolms Pride, A. Smith, 7-10-10	Bradley
8	0000	Spanish Handful, R. Stubbs, 6-10-9	Maith 5
10	0132	Warren Gorse (CD), H. Fleming, 7-10-6	Avery 5
16	0/0-0	Barleycroft Star, D. Yeoman, 9-10-5	—
17	0000	Salvalou (B), J. Blundell, 4-10-5	Dutton 5
18	240/	My Story, D. Chapman, 10-10-5	Youldon 5
19	4000	Dean's Guy (D), R. Joffrey, 7-10-5	—
20	0-p00	Some Cherry, T. Taylor, 5-10-5	O'Connor 5
21	r-p04	My Star Hussar, Miss B. Oliver, 6-10-5	Skelton 5

3-1 Sealegation, 4-1 Pretty Boy Floyd, 5-1 Ladies Man, 11-3 Warren Gorse, 8-1 Malcolms Pride, 10-1 Spanish Handful, 12-1 My Star Hussar, 16-1 others.

2.45 BRETTANBY CHASE (Handicap: £2,155: 3m 300yd)

3	1410	Song of Life (C), D. Morley, 6-11-9	B. R. Davies
4	3024	Current Gold, G. Richards, 10-11-2	Doughty
5	0pp2	•Laaken, D. Morley, 6-10-13	—
7	1p40	Rigorous (CD, B), Mrs J. Simpson, 10-10-10	Grant
8	202p	Caldbeck (CD), D. MacDonald, 11-10-7	J. Goulding 4
9	403f	Solo Sam (CD), R. Brewis, 9-10-3	Lamb
12	0040	High Rebel (CD), R. Robinson, 10-10-0	Tuck
13	-0033	Devon Mignon, R. Bothell, 11-10-0	—
14	0214	General Bruno (CD), F. Gibbon, 11-10-0	Mr Metcalfe 4
15	2014	Venetian Blind, N. Crump, 9-10-0	Hawkins
16	00f0	Silver Mount, G. Lockerbie, 10-10-0	Balmer

2-1 Song of Life, 100-30 Current Gold, 5-1 Caldbeck, 7-1 Rigorous, 8-1 Devon Mignon, 10-1 General Bruno, 14-1 others.

3.15 WENSLEY HURDLE (Div I: 4-y-o novices: £535: 2m)

1	00	Aladyat, J. Blundell, 10-10	Dutton 7
3	040	Barryphilips Disco, R. Whitaker, 10-10	Bowker
4		Belle Isle Walk, N. Crump, 10-10	Hawkins
6		Charlie's Sunshine, R. Fisher, 10-10	Errington 4
8	0f0	Dance Little Lady, J. FitzGerald, 10-10	Atkins
9	0200	Dark Hope, B. Richmond, 10-10	O'Connor 7
13	040	Jolly Marjim, E. Weymes, 10-10	—
14	0002	Poonenies, G. Richards, 10-10	Doughty
15	00	Roman View, R. Dods, 10-10	Grant
16	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
17	004	[illegible]	[illegible]
18	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
19	022	[illegible]	[illegible]
21	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

3-1 Pounenies, [illegible] Saldatore, 5-1 Dark Hope, [illegible] chin, 8-1 [illegible] Isle Walk, [illegible] others.

3.45 LEYBURN CHASE (Div I: Novices: £951: 2m)

[illegible]

9-4 Lucky Rew, [illegible] Ketchup, [illegible]

4.15 LEYBURN CHASE (Div II: Novices: £943: 2m)

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
9	000/	Bushello, I. Jordan, 6-11-2	Allen
12	0000	Dunquolzal (D), H. Walby, 9-11-2	—
16	uf3u	Kudos, J. Blundell, 6-11-2	Brown
19	3303	Princess Token, J. Gill, 9-11-2	Mr Gill 4
21	0/u3	Reformina, V. Thompson, 8-11-2	Walton
24	/322	•The Corinthian, D. Morley, 8-11-3	—
25	/22-0	Threlkeld Hall, Mrs C. Weightman, 7-11-2	Love 7
27	0-000	Tree Warbler, W. A. Stephenson, 7-11-2	Lamb
21	-00u0	Yestamie, H. C. Ward, 7-11-2	Mooney 4
33	0432	New House Estate, T. Fairhurst, 5-10-7	Fairhurst

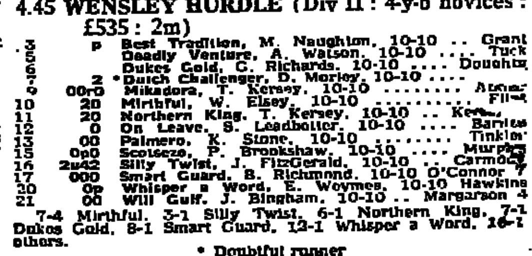
11-4 Autumn Glow, 3-1 Miss Wood, 9-1 Princess Token, 7-1 New House Estate, 10-1 Kudos, 14-1 Burma Pink, 16-1 others.

4.45 WENSLEY HURDLE (Div II: 4-y-o novices: £535: 2m)

3	p	Best Tradition, M. Naughton, 10-10	Grant
5		Deadly Venture, A. Watson, 10-10	Tuck
6		Dukes Gold, G. Richards, 10-10	Doughty
7	2	•Dutch Challenger, D. Morley, 10-10	—
9	00r0	Mikadora, T. Kersey, 10-10	Atkins
10	20	Mirthful, W. Elsey, 10-10	Fil[illegible]
11	20	Northern King, T. Kersey, 10-10	Ke[illegible]
12	0	On Leave, S. Leadbetter, 10-10	Barnes
13	00	Palmero, K. Stone, 10-10	Tinkler
15	0p0	Scoteezo, P. Brookshaw, 10-10	Murphy
16	2u42	Silly Twist, J. FitzGerald, 10-10	Carmody
17	000	Smart Guard, B. Richmond, 10-10	O'Connor 7
20	0p	Whisper a Word, E. Weymes, 10-10	Hawkins
21	00	Will Gulf, J. Bingham, 10-10	Margarson 4

7-4 Mirthful, 3-1 Silly Twist, 6-1 Northern King, 7-1 Dukes Gold, 8-1 Smart Guard, 12-1 Whisper a Word, 16-1 others.

• Doubtful runner



Catterick Bridge selections

By Michael Seely

1.45 Fairy King. 2.15 Warren Gorse. 2.45 Song of Life. 3.15 Saldatore. 3.45 Lucky Rew. 4.15 Miss Wood. 4.45 Mirthful.

Easterby takes lead for amateur title

Tim Easterby took the lead from Paul Webber in the amateur riders' championship by landing his 16th victory when Solar Emperor beat Kilroy Manor by two lengths in the Harry Lane Memorial Handicap Hurdle at Sedgefield yesterday. Kilroy Manor led over the last, with Solar Emperor gaining the advantage on the run-in. This was another winner for the powerful Peter Easterby stable. Solar Emperor was switched from Nigel Tinkler's yard when the young Thirsk trainer lost his licence.

Michael Dickinson, the Harewood trainer, brought his score for the season to 61 with a double by Kenlis and Kyle of Lochalsh. Both were ridden by Tommy Carmody and both started favourite. Kenlis, owned by Mrs Muriel Haggas, led six fences out, and with some bold jumping, hacked up by four lengths from Easby Gold in the Branspeth Handicap Steeplechase. Kyle of Lochalsh, was made odds on for the last division of the Tow Law Novices Steeplechase and made all the running to beat Palace Royal by five lengths.

Huntingdon results

1.30 (1.33) STEVENAGE HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £690: 2m [illegible])

IMPERIUM, ch c, by Mount [illegible]—Idea (W. Sturt), 4-10-[illegible] R. Champion (1[illegible]) 1
Royal Power S. Smith Eccles [illegible] 2
Fearless Seal ...... J. H[illegible] 3

TOTE: Win, 29p; places [illegible] 57p. Dual F: £2.78. CSF [illegible] Old, at Salisbury. 2l, 1[illegible] (20-1) 4th. 21 ran. NR: Ba[illegible]

2.0 (2.5) GRAVELEY CHASE (Selling handicap: £478: 2m 100yd)

IZZYFAST, b g, by Good [illegible]—Pretty (W. Whiting), 8-1[illegible] S. Smith Eccles [illegible] 1
Caxton Hall P. Scudamore [illegible] 2
Pelion .... R. Gol[illegible] 3

TOTE: Win, 32p; places [illegible] 18p, 27p. Dual F: £1.87. [illegible] H. Westbrook, at Newmarket. [illegible] Quick Review (10-1) 4th. [illegible] winner was bought in [illegible] guineas.

2.30 (2.37) WARD HILL [illegible] (Handicap: £1,5[illegible]: 2½m)

KILLER SHARK, b g, by [illegible]—Aquaria (Lord Cadogan), [illegible] S. Smith Eccles (7-[illegible]) 1
Kathies Lad .... H. Davies [illegible] 2
My Snip J. Francome (7-[illegible]) 3

TOTE: Win, 40p; places [illegible] 13p, 11p. Dual F: £1.43. [illegible] G. Pritchard Gordon, at [illegible] Sh hd, 4l. Princely Tool [illegible] 18 ran. NR: Celtic Love.

3.0 (3.6) JIM HOLDEN CHASE (Div 1: Novices: £1,472: 3m [illegible])

CAPTAIN JOHN, ch g, by [illegible] Capitaine—Aproton Lig[illegible] Mouskos), 7-11-1 J. Pearce ([illegible]) 1
Abbey Brig .. R. Champion [illegible] 2
White Heron .. M. Bastard [illegible] 3

TOTE: Win, 37p; places [illegible] 27p. Dual F: 35p. CSF [illegible] Goodwill, at Newmarket. [illegible] Score (8-1) 4th. 14 ran. [illegible]

3.30 (3.36) WARD HILL TOP TABLE HURDLE (4-y-o: £3,286: 2m 200yd)

BALLYWACK MACROO, b g, by [illegible]

[illegible]

A gloomy spectrum of man's inhumanity

Berlin

To say that the Berlin Film Festival runs like clockwork would be an understatement, since the event was this year organized, with wonderful German efficiency, by computer, sweeping away all (or almost all) the queues and confusion which in the past have been endemic to every major festival.

But computers do not make pictures: and good films in Berlin this year were by and large as hard to seek out as needles in haystacks. It may simply be a poor vintage for films; it may be that Berlin suffers by coming too close before Cannes, with every country saving its best for the senior event. Nothing can have been helped, either, by the renewal of hostility towards the festival by the young German film-makers, who feel that the competition does not do all it might for the German cinema. Certainly the single German competition entry—an arthritically lumbering absurdist morality, *Erwin der Neger*, by the Bavarian director Herbert Achternbusch—did *nothing* at all to win friends for German cinema or the festival.

Taking the whole spectrum of films on show (Berlin in fact comprises a series of parallel and even competitive events: as well as the competition there are the Young Film Forum, information and children's sections and a New German Cinema event), film-makers the world over seem currently haunted by the theme of man's inhumanity to his own kind.

There was, for example, a special screening of Dieter Hildebrandt's *Der gelbe Stern—Die Judenverfolgung von 1933 bis 1945*, a documentary parallel to *Holocaust*, recounting the whole story of Hitler's Jewish programme. We are by now familiar with every image of the horrors filmed in the extermination camps. This intelligent new presentation, however, deals more fully than previous films with the prelude. In particular it presents new material on the infamous burning of the books, and Goebbels' exultation at this symbol of cultural extermination. Heine's prediction is confirmed: "Where books were burnt, humans would be burnt too."

The Jewish question came up elsewhere: in Jeanne Meerapfel's admired first feature, *Malou*, the chronicle of a Jewish family under and after Hitler; in Rainer Werner Fassbinder's suitably lurid, founded-on-fact *Lili Marleen (sic)*, now in its fifth week in the Berlin cinemas; and in Frans Weisz's *Charlotte*, a visually exquisite but structurally chaotic account of the life of Charlotte Saloman, a young painter who died in a *Jewish extermination camp.*

One of the best films in the competition, the Swiss director Markus Imhoof's *The Boat is Full*, puts the bizarre and terrible story of racial persecution in a new light, incidentally shattering the conventional picture of neutral Switzerland as a haven of calm sense and humanity.

A little group of Jews escaping from a Nazi transport cross the border into Switzerland, and seek shelter in the village café. The proprietress is reluctantly kind; her husband is dutiful and reports the affair to the police. The local policeman is a good deal happier returning them—old men, women and children—to certain death than risking going against his book of instructions. The outstanding quality of this film, scripted by the director, is that the people—refugees and their "hosts" alike—are viewed not as groups but as people, with their individual unpredictability and *human failings. One scene sums* up much of what the film is about: the café lady has given a Jewish child a postcard to mail the news to a friend that she is now safe. Afterwards, when the child has been sent back to captivity, the woman providently soaks the stamp off the card which it is now too late to send.

Other forms of group oppression, less murderous perhaps but still persistent, came under *scrutiny. In competition*, Claude Goretta's *La Provinciale* portrays a talented provincial girl (Nathalie Baye) who comes to Paris only to discover the full threat of both male chauvinism and feminist over-reaction. From East Europe, the Hungarian Lászlo Lugossy's *Thanks, We're Getting Along* presents a working-class couple, imprisoned by economic insufficiency and ineradicable social custom which limits their relationship to that of proprietor and chattel.

The best film about feminism and race, however, was certainly Connie Field's *Rosie the Riveter*. The title comes from a popular song of the Forties, when American women were being lured into war industry with promises and propaganda about the glamour and patriotism of the task and the conditions and prospects they would be offered.

In this fine documentary official films and *March of Time* "reports" are contrasted with the recollections of the women themselves—how they were underpaid, discriminated against sexually and racially, exploited, and finally sent back to the domestic ghettoes when they became an embarrassment to an over-stocked labour market. Even though it all happened nearly forty years ago, the experiences of these women—as their present-day testimony affirms—is still very pertinent. *Apart from the intrinsic fascination* of its content, the film is also very lively and often funny—which probably explains the disapproval of those hard-line feminist film-makers who favour a strategy of tracts to bore the pants off.

Films on homosexuality were much to the fore; and here too attitudes were predominantly dispirited and dispiriting. The protagonists of two Norwegian films—an over-coloured story about a two-man, one-woman *ménage, Life and Death*, and a *drama of a schoolteacher* wrongfully accused of raping a child, *The Execution*—meet violent ends at the hands of an ignorant and hostile society.

On the other hand a remarkable CBS documentary *Gay Power—Gay Politics* shows a hardly less disturbing *verso* to the coin. As the homosexual population of San Francisco increases by accelerating migration, the one-time oppressed minority (following a classical historical pattern) uses new-found civic power to introduce its own kinds of repression and revenge.

Claude Farraldo's *Deux Lions au soleil*, from France, is a much more carefree view of things: a farce about a homosexual couple whose exploits as muggers go farcically adrift, and who end up going straight, in every sense of the word.

The most rational and reassuring film about homosexual life proved to be German: *Frank Ripploh's Taxi zum Clo*, which won most hearts (as well as the Max Ophuls Prize) in Berlin by its easy frankness and good humour. Ripploh, a former teacher who lost his job on account of his sexual instincts, cheerfully accepts the facts, grave and gay, of homosexual life, and examines the essentially human problems of a loving couple of incompatible temperaments. Ripploh, playing his own leading character, portrays himself as a sexual adventurer who cannot accommodate *himself* to his gentle, loving, home-making partner.

Among films dominated by nagging anxieties, Mrinal Sen's *Anatomy of Famine* stood out by its much larger view of cultural and social collision. An Indian film crew arrives in a remote village, where they intend to make a film about the great famine of 1943. Their attempts to recreate the anguish of the past are constantly overtaken, however, by the problems of the present: suspicion, ignorance, intolerance, economic want, above all a total and inevitable failure of communication between the people from the city and their rural hosts. The film crew return to Calcutta defeated, empty-handed, confused, but very little the wiser.

Sen commits the (for him) uncharacteristic faults of being too long and sometimes obscure. This was still one of the liveliest works on show in Berlin, with its vigour and its often comic juxtaposition of the worlds of reality and movie make-believe.

David Robinson



Sreela Majumdar in Mrinal Sen's *Anatomy of Famine*

Better a live Pompey than a dead Cyril
Tricycle

Irving Wardle

I was waiting for the moment when the Women's Company would explain their cryptic title, but they never do; and, if anything, their Stevie Smith musical evening goes to show the opposite. From this selection from the poems it seems that, although Stevie Smith was usually quite happy, she always felt it would be more interesting to be somewhere else, in her coffin, for instance.

Amanda Fisk's set strikes a note somewhere between a children's party and the no-go areas of Highgate Cemetery. There is a cheerful mess of familiar belongings framed by three funereal portals, one of them guarded by a cast-iron cat; and the evening consists largely of switchback rides between life's little pleasures and equally friendly handwaves to the grim reaper.

That, it seems to me, gets the tone exactly right; and the company further illuminate their subject by splitting up the poet's different aspects between four actresses: the overpoweringly confident Clare McIntyre; the sexually outcast Marilyn Milgrom; the eccentrically genteel Susan Glanville; and Stephanie Nunn, who comes over as the eternal schoolgirl besides writing the show's music and playing it on the piano, cor *anglais*, and *midget* recorder.

The music is the making of the show. It would be hard to devise a theatrical event from the poems alone, as they are continually luring you into expectations that Stevie Smith has no intention of gratifying; in particular she retreats from anything so vulgar as a punch-line.

Miss Nunn may be a sophisticated musician, but what she has done here is to match the poetic naivety with her own; so that the spasmodic and irregular lines are mirrored in *interrupted dance tunes, chordal* doodling, and unselfconscious returns to the Victorian parlour songbook.

Most of the spoken material comes over with impish vitality; particularly when addressed to a stage partner, or when the gentle old lady shows her claws ("In the desolate night/I think only of the people I should like to bite"). But it is in the cymbal bashing finale, the operatically heightened Arthuriad, or the beaming Miss Glanville's unsmiling reprise of "Just a Girl that Men Forget" that the programme gets into its stride.

Not to mention the cheerful invalid in "*The Deserter*", rollickingly backed up with Ketelby's *Monastery Garden* until she whips off her hospital shawl and discloses a picnic spread inside it.

Semele
St John's/Radio 3

William Mann

It was the BBC's turn on Monday to give a concert for the European Broadcasting Union. Keen, perhaps, to show off our prowess in the stylish performance of eighteenth-century music, we chose an English, dramatic, non-sacred oratorio, Handel's *Semele*, which John Eliot Gardiner conducted with his Monteverdi Choir, an excellent team of principal singers, and the English Baroque Soloists as their accompanying orchestra.

The operation successfully demonstrated to listeners overseas, I hope, that Handel's oratorios are not necessarily sanctimonious megaliths, in the bad old *Messiah* tradition, but light, elegant entertainment, with fire and pace.

Even here, the cause is not won, as witness Mozart's operas at Covent Garden, half-stylish at best. This *Semele* was a cogent item of propaganda, not necessarily flag-wagging, for a decently authentic, enjoyable Handel style, life-enhancing as, in my youth, Handel under Beecham or Sargent promised loathing and boredom, not to mention dreadful singing.

British listeners could complain that *Semele* is being pushed at the expense of other equally marvellous oratorios by Handel: I wrote about a Prom performance last September, though with different forces, and only one of Monday night's singers.

Anthony Rolfe Johnson sang "Where e'er you walk" even more beautifully now than then, though elsewhere he suggested a less than ideal Lord of the Gods and supreme lover.

I could not but remember how delectable was the Semele of Felicity Lott last summer, and how vengeful Sarah Walker's Juno. Here we had Eiddwen Harrhy, warmly romantic yet ideally true in "O Sleep, why dost thou leave me?" with pungent lute and organ accompaniment. Della Jones also turned her imperious alto register to splendid effect as Juno in "Hence, Iris", which *she* decorated as to the manner born.

Rolfe Johnson did grace the occasion with humour and brilliance and athletic pace in "I must with Speed", an aria in which the Lord of the Gods has *to remind himself that* he is not to behave fallibly. Cupid's solo, "Come, Zephyrs, come", omitted from the first performance, was rightly included, charmingly and neatly sung by Elizabeth Priday in a suitably boyish soprano voice.

I must mention Nicholas Kraemer's tactful yet spirited harpsichord playing, and the curious accident which removed the right-hand stereo channel in the first act.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

No Names No Medals
Jeannette Cochrane

Ned Chaillet

Euan Smith is a teacher at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. He is also the author and director of *No Names . . . No Medals*, a play which he subtitles "A Story of the SAS". More than a story of the Special Air Service, it is a conjecture about the siege of the Iranian Embassy and its effects on the soldiers who attacked it so *successfully. For the purposes of* more dramatic conjecture, he has recruited students from RADA to perform his play at the Jeannetta Cochrane Theatre.

Despite the students, there is nothing unprofessional about the performance. *In fact, Mr* Smith has drawn four intensely physical and imposing performances from the central actors, performances such as rarely occur in the British theatre outside a Steven Berkoff produc*tion. As they* torture one another, exercise and practise unarmed combat they also speak Mr Smith's lines which are meant to give them separate identities reflecting the diversity of class and background within the SAS. That demanding opening sequence is engrossing, but Mr Smith is shortly dramatizing his ideas and that is somewhat less compelling.

Without naming the Iranian siege, he recreates it. The four SAS men stop running and pummelling each other long enough to form the unit which breaks into the embassy. Afterwards, weakened by the presence of a woman and the memories of a comrade killed in Northern Ireland, one member cracks. The rest of the team knock him into shape, the woman holds them at gunpoint and asks what kind of people *they are and they reunite by* drinking champagne with their controller, a man with a remarkable presence named Max Arthur.

Mr Smith's play is not boring, but it lacks the moral *rigour and intensity of Tom* Kempinski's related play, *Flashpoint*. It is neither fiction enough nor documentary enough to be anything other than ambiguous. Although the SAS characters remain unnamed, I can tell you the actors' names. They are Colum Convey, Paul McGann, Bruce Payne and Craig Pinder, and in two months they will be looking for professional work.

Tear/Luxon
Sadler's Wells

Hilary Finch

The parlour palm, which, with the aspidistra, has become familiar vegetation for Robert Tear and Benjamin Luxon, returned to the desert on Monday as the setting for a song that spun the spell of a nineteenth-century far Arabia. It was one of the high points in an evening of Victorian "Adventure on Land and Sea", the first of three entertainments by Tear and Luxon as part of a week of concerts at the Wells.

The fact that Benjamin Luxon had sung "The Desert" only once before doubtless accounted for the sharper edge of true vocal and dramatic adventure it had over some of the evening's more familiar ditties.

The recital as a whole showed that, even for such seasoned balladeers, it is never quite as easy as it seems, a century later, to recreate those songs artfully without resorting to the aid of either scented nostalgia or a cynical mockery masked in high camp. *Not that Tear and Luxon* ever quite fall into either of those traps; but on Monday there was, particularly in duets like "List the convent bells", too much enervating vocal gushing and clichéd gesture.

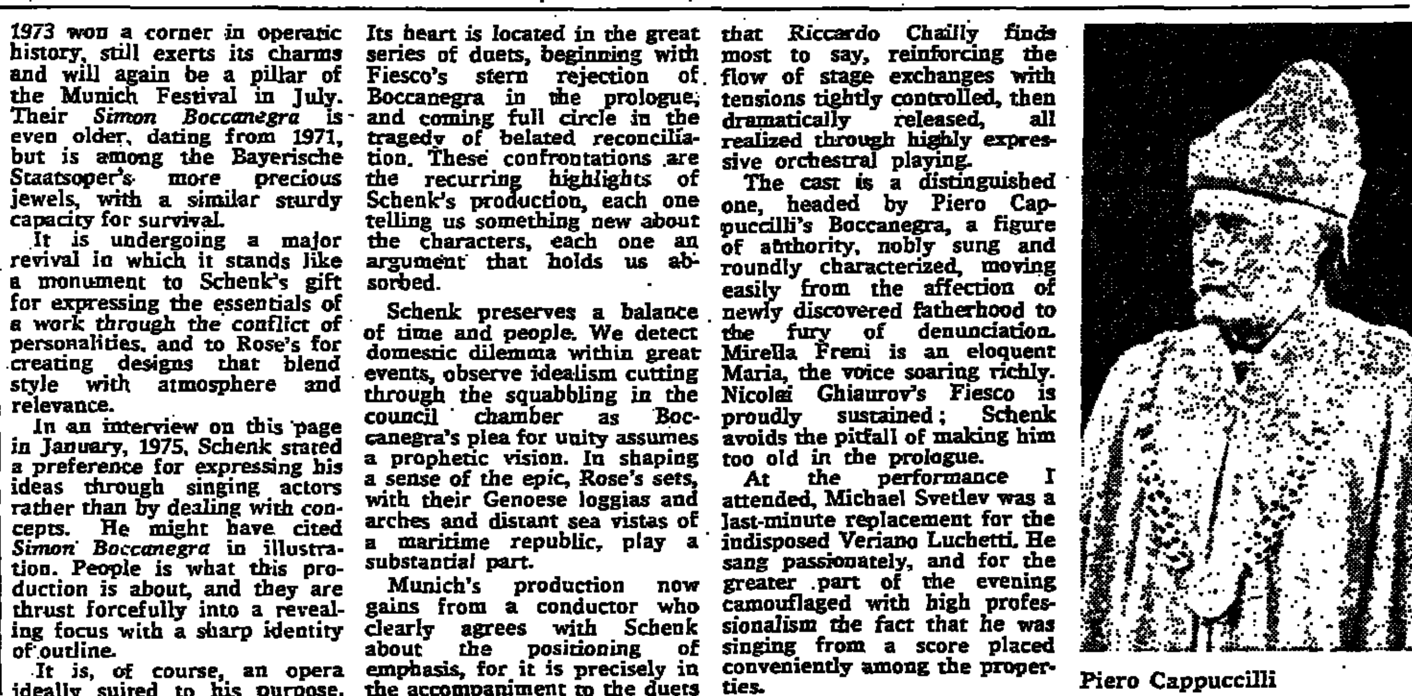
Mr Tear was the guiltier party, relying too much on wooing by gesture alone: how much more effective was his singing when he let the words and music speak more for themselves in Dibdin's "Tom Bowling" and "The Snowy Breasted Pearl", both sung with elegance and firmly sustained tone.

Mr Luxon's "Wreck of the Hesperus" showed what, at a performing level, could and should be done: as in his *accompanied recitation*, "Dan McGrew", he took care to build and sustain the narrative compellingly through the blending of a wide range of colours in his vocal palette, helped not a little by John Constable, who *touched in the details with dis*arming nonchalance.

Elsewhere his playing tended to be a little prim: that was not without its effect in an evening whose music making, to paraphrase one from whose combination of sophistication and panache the trio can still learn, was not quite serious enough not to be taken seriously.

Simon Boccanegra
Bayerische Staatsoper

Kenneth Loveland



Munich has profited greatly from the instinctive partnership of Otto Schenk and Jürgen Rose. Their beautifully imagined *Der Rosenkavalier* of *1973* won a corner in operatic history, still exerts its charms and will again be a pillar of the Munich Festival in July. Their *Simon Boccanegra* is even older, dating from 1971, but is among the Bayerische Staatsoper's more precious jewels, with a similar sturdy capacity for survival.

It is undergoing a major revival in which it stands like a monument to Schenk's gift for expressing the essentials of a work through the conflict of personalities, and to Rose's for creating designs that blend style with atmosphere and relevance.

In an interview on this page in January, 1975, Schenk stated a preference for expressing his ideas through singing actors rather than by dealing with concepts. He might have cited *Simon Boccanegra* in illustration. People is what this production is about, and they are thrust forcefully into a revealing focus with a sharp identity of outline.

It is, of course, an opera ideally suited to his purpose. Its heart is located in the great series of duets, beginning with Fiesco's stern rejection of Boccanegra in the prologue, and coming full circle in the tragedy of belated reconciliation. These confrontations are the recurring highlights of Schenk's production, each one telling us something new about the characters, each one an argument that holds us absorbed.

Schenk preserves a balance of time and people. We detect domestic dilemma within great events, observe idealism cutting through the squabbling in the council chamber as Boccanegra's plea for unity assumes a prophetic vision. In shaping a sense of the epic, Rose's sets, with their Genoese loggias and arches and distant sea vistas of a maritime republic, play a substantial part.

Munich's production now gains from a conductor who clearly agrees with Schenk about the positioning of emphasis, for it is precisely in the accompaniment to the duets that Riccardo Chailly finds most to say, reinforcing the flow of stage exchanges with tensions tightly controlled, then dramatically released, all realized through highly expressive orchestral playing.

The cast is a distinguished one, headed by Piero Cappuccilli's Boccanegra, a figure of authority, nobly sung and roundly characterized, moving easily from the affection of newly discovered fatherhood to the fury of denunciation. Mirella Freni is an eloquent Maria, the voice soaring richly. Nicolai Ghiaurov's Fiesco is proudly sustained; Schenk avoids the pitfall of making him too old in the prologue.

At the performance I attended, Michael Svetlev was a last-minute replacement for the indisposed Veriano Luchetti. He sang passionately, and for the greater part of the evening camouflaged with high professionalism the fact that he was singing from a score placed conveniently among the properties.



Piero Cappuccilli

Book review

Choiseul
Vol. I, Father and Son, 1719-54

By Rohan Butler

(*Oxford*, £48)

Do you enjoy ample leisure? Do you live quietly in the country with little or no social life? Is your library your favourite *room and, above all, does your* library chair possess one of those excellent book rests that swivel from an arm? And is your passion history?—good old-fashioned history that moves inexorably from day to day, *month to month, year to year?* If so, buy this enormous book—it will last you for weeks and it will rarely fail to entertain.

Mr Rohan Butler has written half a *million* words and so far he has dealt with the social and political apprenticeship of Choiseul and with most, though far from all, of his father's life (he died in 1769). When the book ends, Choiseul is about to enter his long years as the dominant minister of France *locked* in a far-flung *struggle* for empire with Britain: indeed, having experienced Mr Butler's technique over 1,000 pages, it is unthinkable that he could get through these later years without writing another million words, possibly more.

Mr Butler is a leisurely writer who loves detail. When he describes Stainville (the home of Choiseul's family) he writes charmingly of the pear trees, giving their names, and takes us through the field names, the dependent villages, the woods and copses—page after page, like the setting of a nineteenth century novel. When a character enters the narrative, the complex genealogies of the French aristocracy are carefully delineated so that we shall not confuse our Bassompierres nor fail to recall that the only son of one was possibly dead. Indeed the book is so endlessly discursive, that readers with *little* leisure will get impatient with it. A pity if they do. It is a book to give one*self to as, in the main, the* detail is fascinating. Mr Butler has a very sharp eye for the foibles of human nature yet a warm and sympathetic compassion and in an odd way, he possesses considerable narrative skill—not overall narrative skill—the main thread is Choiseul who can vanish as easily as the main channel of the Niger in its Delta, only to reappear broad and strong pages and pages later, but each chapter, each section of a chapter, is usually *well* done and well written, although here Mr Butler has his idiosyncracies. Mostly the book is written in easy-flowing, mandarin English but occasionally a word of almost shocking colloquialism obtrudes, like "spunk".

The story which Mr Butler has to tell is not fashionable in historical circles—a tale of diplomacy, much of it arid—whether or not Lorraine should join the Quadruple Alliance or of wars long forgotten, such as the taking of Prague by the Marshal Saxe in which Choiseul (then Stainville) played an insignificant and obscure part.

Wherever Choiseul's many commitments take him, we follow even though the records have scarcely a hint of what he was up to. Curiously enough this vast book is not based on a rich family archive. Had one existed, *this surely would have* become the longest book in the world. The major Choiseul source in this volume is the Choiseul *Memoirs*, printed long ago, but the manuscript now traced and authenticated by Mr Butler.

And what pictures emerge of father and son? Not, oddly enough, very vivid pictures. The father, the Marquis de Stainville, was a competent, persistent minor diplomat looking after the affairs, most of the time, of not very significant minor princes: nevertheless a man of *quality married to a* wife of pungent temperament. They lived busy, subfusc lives of the minor aristocracy — hardworking, reasonably cultivated, well connected, with nostril well open for the whiff *of possible patronage* — an admirable background for their gifted son, if somewhat dim to read about.

Choiseul himself was very able, socially adroit, sexually adventurous, especially with intelligent duchesses who might further his career; he possessed a real love of painting and early in life began to collect Dutch pictures which, however, was also in the main stream of aristocratic fashion. Like so many politicians of outstanding ability he was a man who responded deeply to human beings and to the expression of humanity in art and literature. And yet in spite of his delight in power and his unquenchable pleasure in the arts of love, he retained a detachment that was the result of his overwhelming ambition. Nothing displays the cool calculation of his temperament more than his marriage, at the age of thirty-one, to an *heiress of twelve.* Alas, in this volume, he is more often out of it than in it.

His triumphs and disasters as the leading minister of France in the difficult years of the mid-eighteenth century will, *presumably, be the theme of* the next million words from Mr Butler's pen. Let us hope that he does not become more loquacious with age. However if you can afford it and have the leisure, give yourself up to *volume one*—you will be amply, very amply rewarded.

J. H. Plumb

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Irish ardour for the EEC is now distinctly cooler. This report examines relations with Europe and the latest state of Anglo-Irish understanding





Contrasting views of Limerick, south-west Ireland. The busy central area of the most important city in the Republic after Dublin and Cork. Right: looking across the River Shannon towards the city.

Dublin Castle talks elevated relations with Britain to a new plane

n a bitterly cold, clear iorning on December 8 last ear a helicopter carrying Irs Margaret Thatcher, Lord Carrington and Sir Geoffrey Iowe landed on the lawns of ublin Castle. The 100 or so urnalists who had been bussed" in from the Irish oreign Office in central ublin, bearing credentials nd photographs on their pels, had no idea what a omentous occasion they ere witnessing.

Despite the perhaps delierately different interpretaons that were put on the ccasion by the Irish and ritish Governments, the five ours of talks the British elegation had with Mr harles Haughey, the Irish rime Minister, and some of s top ministers, were cerinly of historic importance. Mr Haughey is perfectly ght to claim that the sumit elevated Anglo-Irish lations to a new plane. here were some phrases in e joint communiqué issued terwards that have been ized on by the increasgly insecure Unionists in orthern Ireland, such as the eclaration that the totality relationships would be iscussed in the joint studies at the two Governments greed to establish.

To the Unionists, such talk nacked of betrayal. Mrs hatcher has subsequently isisted that the constiitional position of Northern reland is not being threaened, but that has not been nough to placate the wrath of the Reverend Ian Paisley or the more restrained concern of his bitter rival, Mr James Molyneaux.

Do the Unionists really have anything to fear? One gets a distinct feeling that something definitely is up, but precisely what can only be guessed at; perhaps the British Government does not even know. Perhaps Mrs Thatcher may have decided simply that she is going to try another approach and see where it leads.

The first tangible effect of the summit, apart from the impact it had on Unionist opinion, was to involve a number of British Government departments in the preparation of ideas for inclusion in the joint studies.

That, in itself, proves Mr Haughey's claim to have put Anglo-Irish relations on to a different plane, because hitherto any joint enterprises with Dublin were worked out almost exclusively by officials from the Northern Ireland Office. A lot of senior officials with no knowledge of dealing with Ireland, therefore, are having a novel experience.

Mrs Thatcher decided to try a new approach largely because of the humiliating collapse of the Government's political initiative in Northern Ireland. The exercise ended ignominiously towards the end of last year after many months of painstaking work by Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Secretary of State.

So Mrs Thatcher became impatient. Exactly what went on inside the Cabinet nobody knows, although rumours are plentiful. There was some suggestion that Lord Carrington felt that it was time to "do a Rhodesia" but the word in informed circles is that he has no particular interest in the Irish question; certainly he has no desire to succeed Mr Atkins in the most thankless job in the Cabinet.

It can be said, therefore, that Mrs Thatcher and Mr Haughey have established a level of accord that transcends anything seen before. Mr Haughey's Government has incurred the politically embarrassing tirades of Mr Neil Blaney and others over the huge sums it is spending on border security—certainly a lot of people find it hard to understand why the Irish Government is willing to spend tens of millions of pounds a year to help to secure a border it does not want. That is a simplistic viewpoint, but it is what a lot of voters think.

As for the voters, Mr Haughey will go to the polls this year able to boast that he has taken the British Government a step down the road to unity although, knowing Mr Haughey, he will be too astute to say it in those blunt terms. The last thing he wants is to embarrass the British Government.

The joint communiqué was a political success for Mr Haughey, because he will be able genuinely to point to the fact that the British are at last beginning to look beyond the border in the search for a political solution.

It is now obvious that the British Government has no intention of launching a new initiative, certainly not in a purely Ulster context. The obstinacy of the Unionists in not yielding to the Government's desire for a power sharing assembly and executive has made such an exercise pointless. Mrs Thatcher is clearly out to demonstrate that the old days of majority rule, in which so much of today's troubles are rooted, are over.

In Dublin there is a general feeling that Mr Haughey will sweep the board in the general election, but some cautionary notes ought to be sounded. The economy is in a shambles, and Fine Gael repeatedly gives warning that the country may in a few years find itself appealing to the International Monetary Fund.

The attitude of the hard-pressed farmers is not nearly so predictable any more; their voting patterns might be upset this time by the devastating drop in incomes.

Nevertheless, Mr Haughey has got something the others do not have—personal magnetism. Everybody, even his closest supporters, think of him as a bit of a devil and that has far more attraction than the mundane efficiency of his rivals in Fine Gael and the Labour Party.

Many senior politicians at Westminster were worried when Mr Haughey became Prime Minister in December 1979. His reputation was that of a hard-liner, an uncompromising republican. The reality has been different, however, and he is obviously a man the British can work with.

His deliberate silence during the worst moments of the Maze hunger strike crisis before Christmas was for the benefit of the British. Mrs Thatcher gave him the joint communiqué with all its innuendoes and he gave her his silence.

The two leaders meet next at Downing Street, probably in June or July, and will devote the entire meeting to considering the result of the joint studies. There are some issues on which there will be all-round delight if there are new agreements—such as restoration of the cross-border electricity link, which is out of use because of IRA bombs. The Republic wants to buy much-needed electricity from the North, which has surplus generating capacity.

Border security is not a source of conflict. The British are satisfied that, especially considering the political difficulties it can cause, the Irish Government is doing all it conceivably can. Certainly, anybody who has travelled in the border areas in the past year will notice a much greater presence by the Irish police and army.

The big question is what happens when the studies come to the central political issue. My guess is that it will not present a problem. Both sides are determined to continue to develop the relationship and neither will do anything to embarrass the other, so some means of ensuring that the harmony is maintained will be devised, or perhaps it will simply emerge.

It seems that in his desire to bring Britain and Ireland closer together Mr Haughey would go up to, but not include, membership of the Commonwealth. Just what that means in practice has not been discovered but, in any case, the British have no advantage to gain in Ireland's membership of the Commonwealth.

The idea in the minds of the two leaders appears to be to try to make the existence of the border as irrelevant and meaningless as possible in the hope of beginning a gradual and delicate process of bringing together the entities of Britain, Ireland and Ulster. Gradually, the divisions might lessen and anything could flow from that. But, in the end, Britain will not cast Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom without the express decision of both the majority in the North and of Parliament.

The Unionists may rant and rave about the new and closer relationship, but it was they who, by their refusal to accept the British Government's will on political reform, forced the same Government to try a new approach. That is the irony, and the truth.

Christopher Thomas



Mrs Thatcher and Mr Charles Haughey meet at Dublin Castle for talks.

Business inexperience the curse of the little man

reland's decision to join the uropean Monetary System bout two years ago coninues to provoke controersy in the Republic. lthough there had long een a simmering dislike, on ationalistic grounds, of the ne-for-one link between the ish pound and sterling, the ecision remains a sore point ith the opponents of the reak, particularly in view of e huge gap in value that e two currencies have xperienced.

From a political viewpoint, e decision to join the EMS eflected a desire by Ireland participate in the initiave by the Community to vercome the floating xchange rate systems of the arly 1970s and to proceed to e ultimate objective of ionetary union. It was also ecognized that high inflaion rates in Ireland were nked with inflationary conitions in the United Kingom through the exchange ate. Essentially, the Irish evel of inflation was deterined by the British level of nflation.

The proponents of the reak felt that linking the ish pound to a strong currency such as the Deutsche mark would result in lower inflation (at the time, British inflation had averaged 14 per cent over a seven-year period, compared with 5 per cent in Germany).

Moreover, the reliance of Irish trade on the market in Britain had fallen considerably during the 1970s. At the beginning of the decade two thirds of Irish exports went to the United Kingdom market but at the end of 1978 the figure had fallen to just under a half. Meanwhile, exports to other EEC countries had risen to more than 30 per cent of total exports.

On the surface, the extraordinary differences in exchange rates experienced by the Irish pound and sterling might indicate a weak punt. In truth, what it really reflects is an over-strong pound, and the value of the Irish pound against other European currencies has held on reasonably well.

The fall in the punt against sterling should, according to economic theory, be opening up new opportunities for Irish exporters in the largest single overseas market—Britain. That is the view of the state and of the banks but in reality the Irish exporter has not been finding it easy to seize the opportunity to the maximum.

When theory is translated into practice, one finds that many small firms in Ireland that are not accustomed to dealing with new and bewildering foreign exchange transactions can lose opportunities; inexperience is the curse of the Irish little man.

While the banks and the Government might cajole Irish exporters to take advantage of the gap in the currencies, they might also try to remember just how depressed the United Kingdom market has become; even a 20 per cent gap has failed to compensate fully.

Also, many Irish exports are produced from raw materials that are imported from Britain—so you gain on the swings, lose on the roundabouts. And there is the agonizing problem of those exporters who have to invoice in Irish pounds because of contractual obligations. Imagine the wrath of a man who signed when the punt was worth 90p and sold when it was standing at 78p.

But most exporters have begun to quote in sterling. And in fairness, the Irish Export Board reports that exporters are now taking much more advantage of the rise in sterling. Even so, there are few who would not prefer sterling and the Irish pound to be more equally balanced —the big gap may help exports to the United Kingdom, but elsewhere in the world it creates many difficulties. The general view is that the sooner there is parity, the better.

Ireland's trade figures published at the end of January showed disappointing trends, and it is widely expected that there is worse to come. The trade balance with the rest of the world, having improved for most of 1980, appears to be deteriorating.

The 1980 figures were partly improved because of the large numbers of hard-pressed farmers who sold off large parts of their stock (which, consequently, has resulted in a big shortage of cattle in the country, and it is likely to take two years to get stocks back to normal).

Also in 1980 Ireland managed to cut the trade deficit by sharp reductions in the volume of imports, which resulted in reduced investment spending, tighter energy conservation and reduced consumer imports such as cars.

But for all the efforts, the trade gap fell only slightly, from £1,317m (Irish) in 1979 to £1,291m in 1980. No rapid progress is in store for this year as there will be an inevitable fall in agricultural exports, because of the heavy destocking in agriculture in 1980.

Dr Garret FitzGerald, leader of Fine Gael, has said more than once that the prospect of an appeal to the International Monetary Fund cannot be ruled out, because of Ireland's enormous overseas debts, although he admits such a move is far from imminent. But he thinks it could happen in a couple of years.

That assumption does not take into account the growing possibility that commercially viable amounts of oil will be discovered off Ireland's coast. The portents are encouraging. Exactly what would happen if there were discoveries that exceeded Ireland's needs appears not to have been clarified in Dublin, but the feeling is that it would choose to become a net exporter.

Mr George Colley, Minister for Energy, estimates that the bill for imported energy will rise to about £1,000m in 1981. Per head of population, it is the highest bill in the European Community.

Intensive research is being conducted into biomass, which entails the planting of fast-growing timber that takes only four to five years to mature. Ireland has plenty of desolate boglands that would make an ideal setting. It is just one of the options to try to reduce Ireland's extreme vulnerability to another oil shock.

Between three quarters and four fifths of Ireland's energy needs are imported. Oil is the great goal that is obsessing the nation. Without its discovery, in spite of all the rosy talk, the prospects of a significant rise in the living standards of the Irish people in the forseeable future are remote indeed.

C.T.



Farm incomes show sharp drop

The price paid for a woman slave in ancient Ireland was three milk cows, which proves either that milk cows were held in high esteem, or that women slaves were held in low esteem. Either way, it proves that cows formed a central part of Irish society, and to that extent nothing has changed. The Irish dairy industry is of central importance to the economy, directly employing 73,000 people and able to brag that it is responsible for about 15 per cent of Ireland's total exports.

So what is good for milk is good for Ireland and it must be regarded as serious indeed when milk production takes a drop. The overriding agricultural story in Ireland last year was the drop, compared with 1979, of 2.5 per cent in the amount of milk the cooperatives received for turning into butter, cheese and other dairy products.

The enormity of that simple statistic is best illustrated by recalling the huge expansion of the dairy industry after Ireland acceded to the European Community. Almost every year dairy farmers were gleefully reporting that milk production was striding ahead by an average of 9 per cent each year.

But it fell to 2.3 per cent in 1979. Then came the minus sign for the first time since 1974.

Dairy farmers rightly regard themselves as the elite of Irish agriculture. In addition to servicing about 24 advanced cooperative processing factories they spend large amounts of money.

In order to maintain their delicate females to high standards, dairy farmers invest huge sums in machinery to make feed, spread a lot of fertilizer to grow the feed, build enormous sheds to keep the cattle warm in the winter, buy antibiotics and employ veterinary surgeons, and buy lots of meal to improve milk yields. The all-round contribution to the Irish economy, therefore, is great indeed.

So when the dairy industry starts to suffer, everybody in the industry is inclined to lose confidence. Two big names in the farm machinery business, Savilles of Santry (in Dublin) and Pearse of Wexford, closed last year and many others laid off large numbers of employees.



Ploughing a straight furrow in the Irish national championships.

Farm building firms had one of their worst years in 1980. Fertilizer usage fell 12 per cent over the previous year, and the four-year boom enjoyed by the feed companies came to an abrupt halt. It is not just the dairy farmers, therefore, who have suffered, although their heavy level of investment and rapid growth have made them more vulnerable to high interest rates and the general air of economic gloom.

Cruelly, the more go-ahead and progressive farmers are suffering the most because it is they who have incurred the greatest investment. That is why many farmers were forced last year to sell off an unduly large proportion of their stock—simply to try to meet their commitments.

The effect was to give the Irish economy a fillip because of unusually heavy agricultural exports, but the short-term gain will be paid for this year. Quite simply, Ireland is short of cattle, and it will take two years to get stocks back to normal.

Tens of thousands of farmers and their workers have marched with banners to demand help from the Government. After a real income drop of almost 50 per cent last year over the previous two years, most farmers are at their wits end. There is no real prospect of an improvement through EEC price rises this year, unless there is a surprise devaluation of the "green pound".

The answer, then, is productivity. The early, heady days of EEC membership meant that Irish farmers hardly had to bother themselves about high productivity, because prices kept rising without even being asked for. The present squeeze has changed all that, and productivity has become almost a religion to the farmers.

Significantly, Irish farmers began last year to criticize the Common Agricultural Policy, which previously would have been seen as heresy. Obviously some critical changes need to be made to the system, and most people expect them to be made this year. Equally obviously, the Irish farmers' love affair with the EEC is over.

Nobody can see when the crisis will end. Certainly nobody predicted that it would come when it did. Ireland had become used to eight-year cycles in agricultural setbacks—1958, 1966 and 1974. This one came two years early and at a particularly critical time, for there will almost certainly be a general election this year and farmers can make or break governments in Ireland.

Farmers defected from Fine Gael in 1977 because of the imposition of income tax and the wealth tax. They continue to fear another Fine Gael/Labour coalition, and are not convinced that Dr Garret FitzGerald, Fine Gael's leader, is sympathetic to their plight.

Under Fianna Fail they have suffered a sharp drop in incomes, and so it is logical to suppose that Fianna Fail will lose some farmers' votes. Rarely has there been so little certainty about the collective political voting intentions of Ireland's farmers so close to an election.

Clearly, the hard-pressed Irish agricultural industry this year may have rather more impact on the Irish political scene than many had supposed.

Christopher Thomas

Investment earns a high return

A book selling well in America entitled *The Expatriate Investor* sums up Ireland as an investment location as a land of "holy war, high taxes and cheap land". It goes on to claim that Ireland's three main political parties are socialist, but observes that at least they know which side their bread is buttered on.

That is not quite the image Ireland's Industrial Development Authority is attempting to promote in a costly advertising campaign in the financial publications of the United States and the rest of the industrial world. The IDA advertisements proclaim that Ireland is the land "where private enterprise is public policy", where there is a stable business and political climate, and where manufacturing industry can expect to earn the highest rate of return on investment, not just in Europe, but in the world.

The irony of Ireland's industrial scene is that there is some truth in both points of view.

The IDA's contention that Ireland is the world's most profitable manufacturing location is based on an annual survey of American overseas investment by the United States Department of Commerce. It shows that American manufacturing firms earned an average annual rate of return in Ireland of 29.4 per cent in the five years to 1979 compared with 13.7 per cent for all countries, 15.5 per cent for the EEC nine, and 12.1 per cent for the United Kingdom.

This prospect of a full return in little more than three years has been the key to Ireland's remarkable industrial performance over the past decade. The Department of Commerce survey also shows that the 600 American companies located in Ireland reinvested three quarters of their largely tax-free profits, and that investment by United States companies grew at a faster rate in Ireland (32 per cent) during the five years than anywhere else.

The overseas investment injection has shown up in an annual growth rate of 7 per cent to 8 per cent in industrial output since the mid-1970s, a surge in exports, and improved industrial productivity. However, this improving productivity has thwarted the IDA's efforts to raise industrial employment in line with the growth of Ireland's labour force. Between 1976 and 1979 industrial employment rose by only 10 per cent (an extra 21,000 jobs) compared with a growth in output of 37 per cent.

In 1980, because of recession both in Ireland and in Europe, there was a fall in employment despite a record year for the IDA which resulted in investment approvals for 1,850 projects involving a fixed asset investment of £580m and a job potential of 35,000. The job getters have been thwarted by a recurrence of heavy job losses in traditional manufacturing enterprises caused by the recession, and by the continuous growth in the labour force. Ireland's population growth rate, at 1.5 per cent a year, is matched in Europe only by Poland's. At the end of January Ireland's jobless total had risen to 125,000, an increase of almost 40 per cent on a year earlier.

But despite Ireland's chronic unemployment industrialization has transformed the country's economy. The IDA promotion means that in a year when the *Irish* Government's fiscal stance is expansionary, the gdp growth rate climbs towards the top of the international gdp growth rate tables. In a year of recession when the fiscal stance is "neutral", as in 1979 and 1980, there is at least some growth.

The Expatriate Investor is close to the mark, however, when it says that Irish parties know which side their bread is buttered. The incentive is the threat of soaring unemployment in the event of a faltering in the industrial development drive. As a result Irish economic policies accord a high priority to industrial needs. Thus, in 1980, the Central Bank presided over a cut of four points in the prime lending rate despite a massive balance of payments deficit of £1720m (8.5 per cent of gnp) and a drop of 20 per cent in the Irish pound's value against sterling.



A New York-based company's £5m factory in Waterford manufactures soft contact lenses.

Three years ago, when the European Commission attempted to put an end to the tax-free holiday on export profits great efforts were made by the Government and the IDA to preserve the bottom line rate of return of 29 per cent. The EEC's complaint was that the incentive was an indirect subsidy to exports and thus could be construed as a protective trade measure.

The result was a new scheme which took effect on January 1, 1981, which levies a corporate tax rate of only 10 per cent on all profits. Existing companies can continue to avail themselves of the total tax exemption on exports until 1990, while incoming companies are assured of the 10 per cent tax rate until the year 2000. The IDA is happy with the outcome, for companies can reduce the new rate by as much as half through depreciation allowances. It has the added attraction, in the words of one of the IDA's tax experts, Mr James Deeny, of being "simpler, more certain and more straightforward than other schemes in the EEC".

Although it is an exaggeration to claim that Ireland's manufacturing sector is a haven of free enterprise surrounded by socialism it is nevertheless true that Irish governments lean towards Cambridge rather than Chicago in their other economic policies.

Successive governments have presided over a soaring Exchequer debt (in 1980 the borrowing requirement ran to 14.5 per cent of gnp and for 1981 there are few Irish economists who do not believe it will be higher). This debt has been incurred in part to improve the overstretched, and at times exasperating infrastructure of roads and telecommunications that industrialists have to contend with. It has also gone to satisfy the wage demands of the strike-prone public sector. And it has financed tax concessions for workers in the (almost strike-free) manufacturing sector, whose militancy has been expressed in the streets against the PAYE tax system rather than in the factories against their employers.

Ken O'Brien
The Irish Times

Luring the British with value for money

You have to be clever to sell tourism. Once upon a time the policy of the Irish Tourist Board was to woo the British visitor by the assurance that the money was just the same as back at home. Now things have changed. Ireland joined the European Monetary System; Britain did not, so the British have to be persuaded with a different line of chat: "Your pound is worth much more in Ireland."

Since the notion that a pound is somehow worth much more than a pound is an appealing one, the new blandishment may be much more attractive than the old. Last year more than a million people went across the Irish or Celtic seas to Ireland from various parts of Britain. They spent a great deal of money—£120m is the official figure. They stayed in a great variety of accommodation, from castles to site caravans, and they moved around the country in an even greater variety, from horse-drawn caravans to motor launches, from their own cars—taken over on the ferries—to bus tours with stops at a different place every night.

A great many of these visitors may have had Irish connexions, relatives or even Irish birth—but a satisfactory number were "pure British". In other words people with no emotional ties to get them to take their holidays in Ireland.

The whole complicated tale of Irish tourism is probably already well known. After the Second World War, people came from Britain to Ireland in their thousands—because there was fresh country air, and most of all, there was food. They came worn-out and peaky from the rationing, the queues and the scarcities; they left bloated and gorged. And in those days the Irish had not learnt how to charge, so a cosy relationship grew up.

The British were the bread and butter market of Irish tourism for 20 years. I remember them well at both ends of the economic scales.

There were the wealthy with their big purring cars and their dogs and their fishing rods; they stayed in the south-west usually. They were as regular as swallows and as welcome. Then there were the rather impoverished tourists, working men and their wives, usually middle-aged, who were able to afford a holiday abroad only after the children had grown up and started to earn . . . but they were not able to go very far abroad, even then.

They came to resorts outside Dublin on package tours, and they were the hotelier's dream. Excited and pleased by what they considered the quaint charm of Irish ways, enthusiastic to see anything that was offered, delighted to be met with open mindedness rather than English reserve, they looked set to be the mainstay of the Irish economy for ever.

But in the late 1960s The Troubles began and the number of British tourists declined. Such research as can be done on a subject as intangible as attitudes towards nationality indicates that the British stayed away because they feared they would be unwelcome rather than because they feared they would be in danger. Whatever the reasons, people stopped coming to a place they had liked before and those who had expected them were disappointed—they were seeing their living disappear. The Irish had built wings on to their hotels, modernized their guest houses, installed swimming pools, procured horses for pony trekking . . . and now the customers were not going to come any more.

It has often been said that the fall-off was the best thing that ever happened to the Irish tourist trade, since it meant that hoteliers and other caterers could no longer take it for granted that there was a captive market just across a narrow sea channel. Now they had to look elsewhere, and even more important they had to look inwards and examine what is called "the product".

What that product has to offer is potentially magnificent in an island with mountains and lakes and the longest and most beautiful river in that part of the world, Atlantic waves, fishing, golf, roads with only sparse traffic. But there are problems: one of them is that as the place is an island getting there, by air or sea, tends to be costly.

The carriers have had to get together with other interests to offer acceptable package tours nowadays. Gone are the times when the airline or the car ferries could charge what they liked and expect visitors to grin and bear it. Now there are very competitive packages.

Aer Lingus provides a weekend in Dublin at a good hotel for £62, fare included, or a week rambling around the country, with a car for occasional short trips, from £73. That is a great improvement on having to pay the scheduled fare and make one's own arrangements.

British Rail has a package offering motorists a week in an Irish farmhouse from £79 a person, car ferry fare included, for parties of four or from £87 for two people.

For as little as £23 a person B and I, which sails from Liverpool or Pembroke, will arrange a week's holiday in a well-kept, comfortable thatched cottage.

These examples indicate how Ireland has had to adapt its tourist trade to the needs of the market. The continent of Europe helped Ireland to improve its product greatly in other ways than just merely providing an alternative to British trade during the period that this fell away. When determined marketing attempts were made to attract the French, German, Dutch and Italians, a long, slow look was taken at Irish food. We were quite satisfied with it the way it was, but the French in particular did a lot of nose-wrinkling and wondered why their hosts prepared all that beautiful fish and all those good vegetables, for example, in such an unexciting way.

The country has not been invented that can unreservedly please the French at table, but at least the Irish have now stopped displeasing them to the point of rancour. Many small and simple restaurants have started up all over the country preparing food from the locality in the old manner, and it is to the good of everyone.

The mistakes of the fast food era are being rectified slowly. Nowadays Irish tourism realizes that it cannot charge very high prices and expect people to come back a second time

Maeve Binchy
columnist,
The Irish Times

Population increase may be most significant social statistic



Three generations in a population where 49 per cent are under 25.

The 1970s was a period of such rapid economic and social change in Ireland that we are no longer the country we think we are. As a result, many of our laws, institutions and attitudes have become seriously outdated. The traditional strands of our political culture reflected the ethos of a largely rural society with a strong sense of nationalism together with the predominant influence of the Catholic Church on moral and social values.

The pattern of Irish society was already changing in the 1960s, with increased urbanization and industrialization, a decline in the numbers employed in agriculture, improved access to education and training and the influence of television and modern telecommunications. However, the pace of economic and social change accelerated significantly in the 1970s.

Side by side with this economic growth came significant demographic changes. The familiar pattern of emigration slowed in the late 1960s and was transformed to one of net immigration during several years in the 1970s. Although *there is evidence that fertility in* marriage was dropping (despite the legal ban on contraceptives), this did not produce a net decline in the birth rate because the total number getting married was rising.

The resulting population increase is possibly the most significant social statistic in modern Ireland: it was estimated that the figure exceeded the three million *mark in 1972 for the first* time in almost 50 years. The present population (April 1980) is 3,428,000 of which approximately 49 per cent is under the age of 25 and *40 per cent is under the age* of 19.

Ireland joined the EEC with high expectations, after an overwhelming vote in favour of membership in May, 1972 (83.1 per cent in favour, 16.9 per cent against), and encouraged by the commitment of the Paris Summit in October 1972 *to put into effect* regional and social programmes which would transform it from a "common market" to a "European community".

This social dimension was given a particular focus for Ireland when the first Irish member of the Commission, Dr Patrick Hillery, was allocated what was then the underrated brief of social affairs. However, although the establishment of the European social fund provided a *considerable boost to development* of training in Ireland there was early disappointment at the lack of political will to achieve balanced regional development.

The most striking social impact was in the area of equality between the sexes. Ireland found itself moving at a European rather than an Irish pace in putting into effect EEC equality directives. Not only did Ireland lack a strong preexisting ideology of equality, but the article on family rights in the 1937 Constitution itself reflects traditional attitudes towards the role of women with provisions such as: "In particular, the state *recognizes* that by her life within the home, woman gives to the state a support without which the common good cannot be achieved."

"The state shall, therefore, endeavour to ensure that mothers shall not be obliged by economic necessity to engage in labour to the neglect of their duties in the home."

This was followed immediately by the prohibition of any divorce legislation: "*No law shall be enacted* providing for the grant of a dissolution of marriage."

A direct clash occurred in December 1975 on the issue of putting into effect the EEC directive on equal pay within the time-scale required by Europe. The Irish Government introduced a Bill in Parliament seeking to postpone full operation of the Irish legislation until December 31, 1977, and applied to the EEC Commission to detract from the requirements of *the directive.* This provoked a storm of protest from the trade union movement and women's organizations, but the effective pressure was exercised in Brussels, when the *EEC Commission* rejected the Irish application and refused to permit any postponement.

Although the EEC equality measures have had a considerable impact in promoting Irish domestic legislation and machinery for putting into effect equal pay and equal opportunities, the main beneficiaries in Ireland—as elsewhere in the EEC—have been white-collar workers and professional women. The EEC measures have had little impact on *the position of the vast* majority of women workers who have low-paid and often part-time jobs, clustered at the bottom of the economic scale and classified still as "women only".

For this reason, the impact of EEC legislation on the broader social situation and perceptions of Irish women had been very limited until recently. However, during the past few weeks a heated controversy has ar isen asrsulaet f f has arisen as a result of the *recent report and resolution* of the European Parliament adopted on February 11, 1981, on the position of women in the European Community.

It is the *section of this* report on health care, with its reference to abortion legislation, which has aroused a hostile response and resulted in public statements *by prominent politicians* and by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin that if any attempt were made to compel Ireland as a condition of membership to legalize abortion the country should withdraw forthwith from the EEC. So strong has been the reaction on this issue that the many other valuable proposals in the report have been almost ignored by Irish politicians and the media.

Given that a majority of politicians of all parties in the Republic aspire to the political goal of a united Ireland, which they want to see achieved by peaceful means, it might be thought that this political aspiration would help to stimulate changes in the Constitution and laws of the Republic. *Logically it would seem to* create pressure to make the Republic a more pluralistic and acceptable society to those not belonging to the majority religion, whether they form part of the existing minority in the Republic or are of the maporiry tradition in Northern Ireland whom it is sought to attract into some form of political co-operation.

However, far from stimulating social change in this area in the Republic, the political reality is that the Northern Ireland problem has created an artificial barrier to any such change because the present Taoiseach, Mr Haughey, appears to view any liberalization of *the Constitution or laws of* the Republic as bargaining counters in some future negotiations on Irish unity.

This can be illustrated clearly in the following *extracts from the parliamentary* record during 1980. On May 29 1980 Mr Haughey made a formal statement to the Dail on his meeting with Mrs Thatcher in London on May 21, during which he stated: "I am prepared at any time to enter into discussion with representatives of any tradition in these islands. I say now clearly, that the people who regard their tradition as being far removed from ours would be surprised at the length to which we would be prepared to go in such discussions to accommodate them, to give guarantees and undertakings, to protect and safeguard their interests and traditions."

However, only a few days later, when Dr Noel Browne attempted to get a first reading for a Private Member's Bill to remove the *divorce ban, it was opposed* by the Minister for Justice as follows: "As the Deputy is aware, recently the Taoiseach said in this House that the Government had no plans at present to promote legislation to amend the Constitution to remove the prohibition on the grant of a dissolution of marriage .... the Government *recognizes and is* deeply concerned about the hardship and suffering that arises for people whose marriages have broken down. However, to be in any way *ambiguous about* the possibility of divorce legislation would be misleading to those among them who might wish to avail themselves of divorce facilities in that it would hold out prospects that are unlikely to materialize."

Again, at the end of October, 1980, an attempt by the Labour Party to establish an all-party committee to examine the constitutional prohibition and recommend the necessary change which would allow the introduction of divorce was also defeated.

This attitude of "no surrender" by the Irish Government on the divorce issue in 1980 contrasts with a unanimous recommendation in 1967 from an All-Party Committee on the Constitution that the prohibition of divorce should be changed because—among other reasons—"The prohibition is a source of embarrassment to those seeking to bring about better relations between North and South since the majority of the Northern population have divorce rights under the law *applicable to that area*" (*Report of the Committee on the Constitution,* December 1967). What has occurred in the intervening 13 years to change the *unanimous recommendation* of that All-Party Committee (which was chaired by the present Tanaiste, Mr George Colley) into such an implacable "no" by the present Government led by Mr Haughey?

Ireland has the healthy *pressure of the youngest* and fastest growing population in the European Community, together with the stimulus of rapid economic and social development. What is needed now is more institutional flexibility, and a clearer commitment to social and legislative reform.

We must preserve our existing strengths—including the values of warmth, humour and strong family bonds—while removing the unnecessary constraints and *barriers to individual and* community development. Above all, perhaps, we must try to know and understand the county we have become, and not try to live in the safer pastures of former days.

Mary Robinson

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Extraordinary success in EEC diplomacy

The endless ironies of Irish history may seem to the *British—and therefore innocent—observer* to have thrown out a new and additionally irritating dimension in the extraordinary success of its EEC diplomacy. The reality of this success is evident to those who have eyes to see (never a widespread ailment where British consciousness of Europe is concerned).

The opportunism, indeed the hedonism, of so much modern Irish political life could offer one explanation: having gorged itself on intransigent nationalist ideology for so long, Ireland may be much less impeded by chauvinism than its EEC rivals. The Irish have long known how to use nationalism as a means of hard political profit, not as a personal psychological quirk standing in the way of internationalism.

Irish nationalist grievances are notorious; but in politics they have been advanced and withdrawn with a military precision which testifies more to a highly objective strategic capacity than to an unswerving *devotion* to Mother Ireland.

Chauvinism is the real enemy of a European sense, and if *it stands less in the* way of the Irish than of the British, *it may be because* they know more about its practical uses.

But this explanation is both showy and superficial. Ireland's European sense derives in part from deep roots and in the past has expressed itself in many and varied epiphanies. If little is made of them, it is because to the foreign observer Ireland thrusts its alleged uniqueness on its visitors, uniqueness being a good tourist commodity.

Even as seasoned a *journalist, broadcaster* and historian as Robert Kee can be misled (and misleading) here in his remarkable books and telecasts. Irish nationalism presented itself *in unique colours, underlining* the point by the name *Sinn Fein* (We Ourselves). The fact that the name of the statesman most closely and extensively associated with Irish nationalist leadership in the twentieth century was Spanish increased an emphasis on the Irishness of his movements and aims.

Yet Irish nationalism is not all that Irish. Apart from its many British and American antecedents, much of it is deeply influenced by Europe. It is arguable that *if the English had made any* serious or constructive attempt to convert Ireland to Protestantism in the late sixteenth century, instead of giving priorities to national *security, international diplomacy,* economic rapacity and so on, they might have succeeded, given the relative indifference of the populace *to religious dictates, Irish* Catholicism had become arthritic.

It was the reinvigorated and embattled Catholicism of the Counter-Reformation *which changed that and* identified Irish national resistance with Catholic resurgence, less through the Papal crusade of James Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald against Elizabeth, or the mission of Archbishop Rinuccini to the Catholics during Charles's civil war, than through the network of individual missionaries from the Continent.

Irish Catholicism had been prickly and hostile to outside influences in times past. The Celtic church controversy was only one of a number of clashes with Rome, another manifestation of which, some 500 years later, was the Papal urging of a Norman invasion. This did not mean that the Irish were unaware of Europe in the first millennium AD (a highly maritime *one for the Irish*); *but Ireland* believed that the balance of missionary trade *should be drastically* tilted in favour of exports.

Post-Roman Europe was to be Hibernianized. Europe struck back ultimately, via Henry II, but it was only when the Anglo-Papal partnership for modernization of Ireland dissolved that European Catholicism really got its chance. The eighteenth century, when a largely proscribed Catholicism forced Catholics to go to Europe for clerical education, vastly deepened the Europeanization of Irish Catholic culture.

Catholic emancipation may have seemed to be likely to erode this process, but in one *important consideration* it deepened it. The third quarter of the nineteenth century was dominated in Ireland by the personality of Archbishop (later Cardinal) Paul *Cullen who resisted both the* English orientation of his immediate predecessors Crolly and Murray and the Irish cultural emphasis of his opposite number, Mac-Hale of Tuam.

Cullen had been Rector of the Irish College in Rome during Mazzini's Roman Republic of 1848, had kept his house immune by flying the United States flag on it, and had returned to his native Ireland a trusted emissary of Pio Nono, a bitter and intransigent opponent of *radicalism, nationalism,* republicanism and secularism and a genius in organization which built up an urbanizing Irish Catholicism on firmly status-conscious devotional *ostentation.*

Ironically, his enemies in the struggle of nationalists and clergy for mass Irish leadership were often looking to Italy as well. Some, *notably the Fenians,* were directly influenced from their origin by Italian republicanism, *conspiracy* networks and rhetoric; the father of *Fenianism, James* Stephens, owed much specifically to Manin of the Venetian Republic.

The Fenian tradition also drew on its predecessor *movement, Young Ireland,* which came to grief in 1848 and owed much to the German romantics via Carlyle, while the famous United Irishmen of the 1790s, the pattern of modern Irish violent insurrection, had been directly an outgrowth of the French Revolution and were most appropriately symbolized by the suicide in captivity of their leader, Theobald Wolfe Tone, asserting with justice but without success his rights as an officer of the French army.

The entire tradition of violence in Ireland is a very alien one in its most specific assertion; Gaelic poetry never glorified war to the extent that romantic Anglo-Irish poetry was to do. Much would be owed to the influence of British—and American—militaristic cults, but France, Germany and Italy played critical parts in the initial instance. It seems highly appropriate that the rebellious Ulster Protestants under Carson's leadership should have obtained their arms from Germany in 1914, no less than that *the proclamation of the* Republic in the nationalist rising two years later should have so charmingly alluded to the kaisers of Germany and Austria and their subjects as "*gallant allies in* Europe".

Well might Sherlock Holmes ascribe the entire Irish crisis to the Germans in *His Last Bow* (and, it being still 1914, the most conspicuous agents operating in Germany's interests were at that stage still the Unionists).

Yet the country which had most effect on Ireland in opening it up to European influences was necessarily England. The omnipresence of English metropolitan priorities *and self-absorption* drove the Irish intellectuals, Protestant and Catholic, into a search for European influences with which to assert their own self-respect as against the complacent core of their cultural world. So Shaw beat London over the head with Ibsen of Norway, and Wilde wove a web around his hosts that stretched from Greece to Paris, and Yeats took them sailing from Byzantium to Japan and Joyce turned the uttermost form of local *obsession into the most eternal* kind of universality.

Owen Dudley Edwards

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Richard Wigg on how Spain refused to be dragged back to the Franco era

The nation that did not lose its head

Madrid

Although a suspicion lingers that other Spanish army commanders may have "been on the alert" to an extent presently unknown, the most important thing about Monday's putsch by the paramilitary civil guard submitting to the leadership of a well-known right-wing fanatic army colonel is that it was abortive.

Since Mussolini marched on Rome more than 50 years ago, right-wing *conspirators all over the world have* put down democratically elected parliaments, but Monday's takeover while the Cortes was actually in the process of electing a new Prime Minister was *so gross as to affront anyone with* a sense of national dignity—and Spaniards have long been known for just that quality.

Spain's entire national political class, virtually all the 350 members of the lower house, including the Cabinet of the outgoing Suarez government, were ironically kidnapped and held hostage in Parliament by the civil guard, precisely the force which has lost many lives fighting the violence of ETA, the Basque terrorist and kidnapping organization.

It is rather secondary whether the putsch was part of a bigger plot which did not develop fully, or, as all the known signs presently have it, an attempt by a handful of right-*wing fanatics in uniform to put Spain* back into the Franco era.

The King has emerged with considerably enhanced prestige, tested in a night which represented the worst assault on Spain's still not cemented and less than five-year-old *democracy. With the army chiefs* having held to his side, the King should be able to act with vigour against those too clumsy even to respect the traditionalist basic value of national dignity.

"This has been a very important warning, even though things have come out well there's a lot to be thought about", Señor Manuel Fraga, leader of the right-wing Democratic coalition who always acted toughly while Interior Minister only a few years ago, said after being freed.

"We must all make a great effort, with the monarch, to resolve this situation."

It is clear Don Juan Carlos will only be able to give leadership if he *is adequately seconded* by Spain's political class under the impact of those 18 hours of captivity.

Perhaps the most important thing MPs of various parties had to tell *immediately after being freed*, was that it was a small group of "hard-line" officers who were in charge of the 200 or so civil guards, most of them young and obviously lacking in *preparation for undertaking a coup.*

This brings a key element of the putsch—how important a leadership role the reactionary fanatics could play over policemen taught above all blind obedience to orders from above and no questioning.

"This must mean there must now be a decanting off of those elements in the state apparatus, like the civil guard and police, whose conduct has shown them utterly incompatible *with today's system of government* in Spain and before they do irreversible damage to democracy", Señor Miguel Angel Hartinez, Deputy Chairman of the Cortes foreign affairs committee and a Socialist, told me in the street outside Parliament immediately after his release.

Señor Rafael Calvo Ortega, an MP and Secretary General of the Centre Democratic Union, when he emerged, also said: "I would say things must be put in order now, so that they cannot be repeated."

Everyone knows that since Señor Adolfo Suarez took over as Prime Minister in July, 1976, that delicate "decanting operation" has not been pursued with the vigour it could well have been. While in the army veteran "blue division" pro-Franco generals have been eased out in a quiet operation concerted by the King with various defence ministers, the police forces have undergone very little change indeed.

Their training programmes have scarcely altered at all, and their *methods remain those of cowing the* citizens, as in Franco times, with no thought about serving them. The merciless terrorist campaign by ETA, in the name of Basque separatism, has played completely into the hands of the old guard police chiefs.

Last week's revolt by senior security police—some of whose members had links with the leaders of Monday's putsch—staging joint resignations in protest over the "campaign *of calumny*", *alias the public outcry* over the death of a suspected Basque terrorist after nine days of interrogation by Madrid police, strikingly revealed the wholly unreformed mental world these police chiefs, trained up in the fifties, still live in.

One of the most vivid vignettes given by a Spanish parliamentary reporter of the *scene* in the Cortes after the eruption was of Señor Juan Jose Roson, the outgoing Interior Minister, sitting stunned with his head held between his hands.

An occasion like the seizure of the Cortes with MPs and Ministers in it seems unlikely to be repeated, at least not with such a favourable dénouement, and it is clearly the opportunity the entire political class should seize upon if this intolerable action by the Spanish police is not to end by bringing everything democratic down.

After Monday night, it is difficult to think of a more basic national issue over which Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister-designate, appealed *in* last week's debate to the opposition to assist his minority government.

One senses the preponderant reaction of public opinion here is pres*ently favourable to this task being* carried through by the MPs. "You must tell the outside world", a man in the street told me this morning as soon as he found out at a newspaper vendor's kiosk that I was a foreign journalist, "that this is the *last squiggle of a dying snake*. The majority of the Spanish people have decided for democracy, and good or bad as it proves for us, everyone including these policemen, who have lorded it over us for years and will not learn to change their ways, must now play by the same rules as the rest of us".

Some observers had already seen that if the road ahead got bumpy for Spanish democracy the European Community governments might be pressed to grant Spain more imagina*tive terms in the difficult entry nego*tiations. The EEC governments have often talked of the political gains by bringing Spain into the Community —the shorthand for stabilizing its *new democracy. But if the fishing dis*pute in Community waters is any guide, a more understanding attitude to Spain's economic interests will also be required of its neighbours.

One of the most eloquent expressions of solidarity with Spanish democracy heard last night came from Señor Carlos Ferrer Salat, President of Spain's equivalent of the CBI. It would be short-sighted indeed of European governments to drive hard bargains to benefit their businessmen if joining the EEC proves so costly that Spain's entre*preneurs switch their highly influen*tial support to backing a right-wing nationalist authoritarian regime and against democracy.

Flying into the next generation

The so-called neutron bomb and Britain's Nato contribution are not the only defence questions which are likely to be *raised during Mrs Thatcher's* visit to Washington. Another is whether Britain wants, or can afford, to buy the AV8B—the answer to which could determine the *shape* of the RAF's front line for the rest of this century, and possibly beyond.

It began as one of a number of options which have furrowed many a brow at the Ministry of Defence in recent years, and to some extent still do. The fundamental issue is that a replacement for the RAF's Harrier and Jaguar ground attack aircraft in the late 1980s. The original aim was to replace the two aircraft types with one hybrid, which could combine the virtues of the vertical/short take-off and landing (V/STOL) but subsonic, short-winged Harrier, and the supersonic more conventional Jaguar.

This foundered for two main reasons. One was that engine techuology had not advanced so far thas Rolls-Royce could promise a *supersonic* vectored-thrust engine (like that on the Harrier) in time for the RAF. Another was political pressure on the RAF to build their next *aircraft in collaboration with* allies like France and West Germany—neither of whom professed much interest in V/STOL aircraft.

So the RAF *returned* to the drawing board and came up with another two-plane solution. One *involved* an Anglo-French-German aircraft known to the Ministry of Defence by the old title of Air Staff Target (AST) 403, and to the media during the last year or two as the Eurofighter. That would replace the Jaguar. Meanwhile the Harrier would be succeeded by one of two options, either the mark-5 design produced by British Aerospace whose big aluminium wing has earned it *the sobriquet* "the tin-wing Harrier" or the AV8B.

The AV8B is being developed by McDonnell Douglas in the *United States for the US* Marine Corps, who want about 350 of them. It has a better range and payload than the familiar Harrier and its *characteristics include the* use of carbon fibre in the wings and parts of the fuselage. There was opposition to this option however both from those *who disliked the idea of buying* American and from the RAF who thought it did not fulfill their requirement for fast-turning manoeuvrability.

These objections have now been largely stilled.

McDonnell Douglas have improved the turning rate of the AV8B so that it now meets 80 per cent of the RAF requirement. And Britain's industries stand to get at least as much work, and probably more, from a decision to procure the AV8B, as *they would* from concentrating solely on the all-British version.

Rolls-Royce would do most of the engine work anyway. British Aerospace moreover would do 30 per cent of the work on all the United States aircraft and would also assemble the 60 RAF aircraft (there is an option on 40 more) as well as 18 two-seater trainers.

However the RAF's dilema is even more involved. The ques*tion remains; what to do about* the Jaguar? Most plane-watchers at the MOD agree unofficially that the so-called Eurofighter is no more likely *to fly than a dead duck*. Agreement between three air forces over design, timing and the distribution of work has once more proved virtually impossible. It *is very doubtful if the RAF* could afford to invest in such a programme at the present time anyway.

One change of plan which now looks almost certain is the switch of 36 of the new sophisticated but expensive (£11m) Tornado from RAF maritime strike squadrons to replace the older Jaguars in the front line in West Germany. This would mean retaining the Buccaneers, which have had fatigue problems themselves, longer than planned. Then other Jaguars *could in time be replaced either* by buying additional Tornadoes —or even AV8Bs.

Yet another option which the RAF are understood to be con*sidering involves buying be*tween 110 and 130 F18s from the United States at around £7m each—cheaper than Tornado but not calculated to win friends in British industry, or Parliament.

Would it be so unpopular, however, if Britain could sell aircraft to the United States in return? Unlikely though this may sound it is still a possibility. The US Navy needs 350 new trainers under a programme known as VTX-TS, to enter service in 1988 or earlier. British Aerospace is pushing the Hawk, against competition from the Franco-German Alpha Jet (with Lockheed backing), and a clutch of American companies

A final decision on whether Britain will involve itself in AV8B will, *significantly*, not be taken until May-June, when the MOD is examining its long-term costings. It rests very much on how favourable a deal Britain can exact between now and then. Mrs Thatcher has been armed with briefs from the *Ministry of Defence and British* Aerospace. She will need them.

Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

Sir Keith: is there any way out of the steel trap?



Sir Keith Joseph: facing *stern demands*

Poor Sir Keith Joseph. Gaunt of face and baleful of eye, the Secretary of State for Industry stood yesterday accused of complicity in seizure of private sector assets. Later in the day he was obliged, with all the intellectual honesty he could muster, to justify the Government's *decision to hand* out further large sums of taxpayers' money to the British Steel Corporation.

At the same time, the heads of the country's three now nationalized warship builders were issuing stern demands for fair compensation for their nationalized assets.

The coincidence of the two events, demonstrated the considerable difficulties which the Government and Sir Keith find themselves in. Difficulties, it seems, from which they can only extricate themselves, by *some skilful and daring political* acrobatics.

The battle over the warship builders compensation has already been joined in Parlia*ment and through the European* Court of Human Rights. The doling out of further large sums of Government money to the BSC *will serve only to rein*force the vigour with which those cases are prosecuted.

Sir Keith and his advisers have long recognized that the BSC would continue to be the albatross circling over the Government. Equally it was recognized that the corporation would require further substantial sums of money if, as remains the objective it was ever to be turned round into a vigorous, financially viable and aggressive organization.

There was *never* any doubt that the BSC would fail to meet its external financial limits in the current financial year. Mr Ian MacGregor, the Scots-born American businessman brought in amid a controversial £1.8m "transfer deal" to make the BSC work, found that even his considerable skills were no match for the disaster area which he inherited. Reluctantly Sir Keith acceded to the request for money and lifted the corporation's EFL by a further £400m boosting total funding for the year (including £121m carried over from the previous year) to £971m.

BSC, it should be said, has made substantial progress over the past two years. It was in December last year that Mr MacGregor submitted the BSC's corporate plan to the Govern*ment. It would entail further* plant closures, a further reduction in crude steelmaking capacity to 14.4m tonnes, a six month wages freeze and the *shedding of at least another* 20,000 jobs. The package was sold to the steel industry unions with only the largest, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation expressing strong opposition.

As the weeks have slipped by, the private sector of the industry has felt the icy blasts *of recession and competition* from its large public sector competitor. As long ago as last autumn, concern was being expressed among the private steelmakers that some companies would go to the wall unless the Government took proper and comprehensive action. In the last two weeks 2,500 private sectors have been told that they face redundancies.

Not that the private sector was necessarily seeking a proportionate degree of subsidy, but rather that the Government recognize that a policy was needed for the steel industry as a whole and not simply for one (albeit dominant) opponent.

The Government's response was to commit itself to reviewing the areas of "overlap" in product areas between the two—*steel billets, bars, wire rods* and engineering steels. The first fruits of that review are now flowering. Last week's announcement of the "free standing" joint venture company between the BSC and GKN, the engineering and steel-making group, is the first phoenix to rise from the ashes of the recession; a second, and possibly a third, phoenix should rise by about Easter this year, embracing companies in the engineering steels sector.

But the private companies, almost to a man staunch supporters of the Conservative party for generations, have grown increasingly disenchanted with the Government's *approach. Over the past few* weeks the lobbying has intensified with the private sector companies enlisting the support of influential Tory backbenchers. Over the period to 1980 the private sector companies in the "overlap" area has turned in profits of £700m; over the same period BSC has notched up losses of *£1,528m* Worried by the heavy discounting which BSC was involved in to secure business, the private steelmakers indicated that there could be a *strong* case for the EEC Commission to take action for unfair pricing policies.

Yesterday's statement should have been made two weeks ago (ahead of the embarrassing coal industry cartwheel) but the continuing problems over negotiations with the private sector companies engaged in the *phoenix talks, and Mrs* Thatcher's anxiety over the sums involved in this latest BSC financing package, prompted a delay. But BSC was running out of cash and, while already effectively bankrupt, faced bursting through its statutory borrowing ceiling of £5,500m before its financial year ends next month.

As an emergency measure, a new borrowing powers bill has been introduced, lifting the ceiling to £6,000m (with provision for a further £1,000m increase) allowing the corporation to raise funds simply to pay its bills to the year end. But this will now be reduced once the new Iron and Steel *Bill is enacted.*

Under the Bill introduced yesterday, previous capital is to be written off and further substantial funds are being *provided for next year*. But the reconstruction of the balance sheet does enable Mr MacGregor to start with a relatively clean slate and it will *be his performance and that of* the BSC (to be determined by a monitoring committee) which will decide at the end of the three-year appointment just how much of the £1.8m of the transfer deal will be aid to his former employers at Lazard Fères.

Peter Hill

Bernard Levin

The martial art of being utterly wrong

I always knew that General Ludendorff was mad, quite *apart from the evidence pro*vided by his taking up with Hitler, but I had never realized quite how far he had slid off his trolley until, not long ago, I *picked up, for a trifling sum*, a book by him called *The Coming War*. This, written in 1930, was published the following year in English, and its entertainment value is so enormous that I do urge anybody who can find a copy to read it.

It is not just that he argues that England is in the toils of *a conspiracy run by the Free*masons under the direction of a consortium formed by the Jews and the Jesuits ("Rome and the Jews are working hand in hand"); *the old boy* went a good deal further than that, and some of the things he says in the going suggest strongly that *if he had bitten you in the calf* you would have been well advised to treat yourself to a couple of gallons of best quality rabies vaccine. A sample:

> The numbers 10 and 5 are *the cabbalistic equivalents* for the two first consonants of the word "Jehovah". Numbers which when added together transversally make 15 or are divisible by 10 or 5 are accounted auspicious by both Jews and cabbalists. The great French Revolution broke out in 1789, ie 1 + 7 + 8 + 9 = 25. Preparations for the world war in 1914 began 25 years previously. The figures of the year 1932 added together transversally *make* 15. *That is why the 1st* of May was chosen as the Jewish holiday. Our first day of mobilization in the world war was 2.8, figures which *when added together make* 10.

But the real meat of the book consists of his meticulous reconstruction of the war which *he foresees (starting in 1932)*: he goes into the most elaborate detail in forecasting the progress of the various armies. Hark:

> Paris will instruct its armies and those of Belgium to . . . *march forward into the North* German plain, in order to defeat the German Reichswehr and any English troops that may have landed on our soil. Before that, I should mention, the English armies will have landed in Holstein and Mecklenburg, Rome will have foiled the French intention to go to the help of the Rumano-Polish forces, and the Italian army will have settled accounts with Czechoslovakia, though

> If the Italian army is to appear in sufficient strength north of the Alps to bring about a decision in its favour, *it will immediately have to* gain a victory over the army of Yugo-Slavia. . . .

Well, of course. Meanwhile, the Czechs will not have been *idle; having pacified North* Germany in cooperation with the Poles ("a task much facilitated by the railway systems of both countries"), and after "taking measures to paralyse the forces of Austria and Hungary" they will "assemble to the south of the Danube".

And I hope it keeps fine for them. But the Italian army by then will be advancing into Austria and South Germany, the Hungarian army "will be forced to leave Hungary *in* order to establish contact with the Italian army" and "7th and 5th Divisions of the Reichswehr . . . will be assigned the task of protecting the Italian army against Czecho-Slovakia".

While all this is going on, "the neutrality of Lithuania will at first be respected by both Soviet Russia and Poland", *and* "flying squadrons" *will* have been "despatched to Germany by air from England, Russia and Italy". ("The reader", he says *gravely at this point*, "*must not* be misled by the scale of the map.") Nor is that all, for "French submarines, minelayers and aircraft will en*deavour to blockade England*", though as against that the reader will be relieved to know that "Romanian submarines will be unable to do much in the Black Sea".

All this activity, you must understand, is by way of a preliminary to the main action; when the armies are really engaged, Ludendorff drops the future tense and engages the historic present.

> In spite of the bombardment of the northern parts of France by English battleships . . . England at first fails to derive any military advantage. . . . The Belgian and French air forces prove subsequently to be a "good prophylactic" against any risings . . . in the rear of the Belgian and French armies during the rapid advance of the latter through Germany . . . Eng*lish. Russian and Italian air* force detachments of moderate strength arrive at Hanover, Berlin, Stettin, *Königsberg, Augsburg*, Munich and Salzburg . . . infantry and cavalry divisions, which for various reasons are composed of black *troops . . . begin their* forward movement towards Bremen, Hanover, Cassel, Eisenach and Ratisbon.

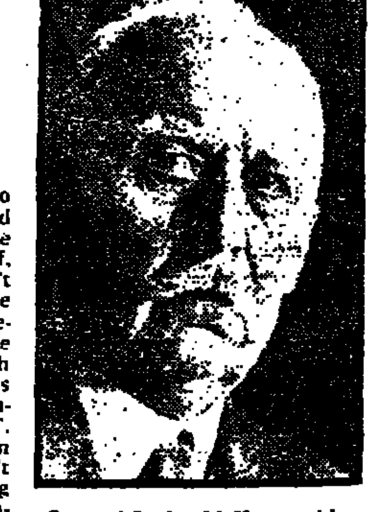
By now the sales of coloured *pins to those wishing* to stick them in wall-maps must be growing into the world's greatest industry, but the General is not finished. Indeed, he has *hardly started.*

> The advanced guard which is marching upon Ratisbon receives instructions to proceed via Kulmbach . . . in order to establish contact with the Czecho-Slovak troops . . . other troops are pushed forward towards the north side of the Lake of Constance *with instructions* to take up a favourable position for the impending battle with the Italian army which is on its way to South Germany. . . . *An Italian General* professing clerical-Fascist opinions assumes the Supreme Command at Munich . . . the *country south of the Danube* . . . becomes an Italian camp to which the inhabitants of Baden, Württemberg and Northern Bavaria flock in *order to take refuge from the* French advanced guards and the invading Czecho-Slovak army . . . the Czecho-Slovak troops occupy the suburbs of Vienna . . .

Faster and faster whirl the armies. Hungary is *invaded* by Czechs, Romanians and Yugoslavs ("fully equipped with the *latest appliances of warfare*"); the Czechs capture Linz; *Polish* cavalry "starts from Upper Silesia and marches towards Breslau"; Hungary has been devastated; *the Germans* are "weighed down by the apprehension of their impending fate", as well they might be; and "the fury of the populace is chiefly directed against the . . . Jews, the Freemasons and the officials of the Christian church".

By the time the reader has *worked his way through a few* score pages of this, the calculation of cabbalistic numbers to demonstrate that the Jews and *the Freemasons are running the* world seems very sound stuff, though Ludendorff, who can't let well alone, rather takes the edge off his argument by re*vealing that the policy of the* Nazi Party (he had broken with Hitler before he wrote this book) "is framed in the interests of Rome and Moscow". By then, however, Europe is in such a state *that* it doesn't really matter who is doing what to whom in which interests; after all, if "the Danish attitude towards the Anglo-German troops in Holstein . . . becomes more and more *hostile*", while "the masonic states of Switzerland and Holland . . . throw in their lot with France" and "the trench war is now carried on by armies millions strong", the fact that the Pope and the General of the Jesuits are killed (*in Spain*) is scarcely more surprising than that "the food question on both sides is becoming acute".

There is something particu*larly, though perhaps rather* shamefully, agreeable in seeing a really nasty man suddenly seized by the conviction that he is a poached egg, and watching him stop passers-by and *ask them for the loan of a piece* of toast on which he may sit down. General-Quartiermeister Ludendorff was just such a man, and *The Coming War* as *fine an example of the poached-*egg-on-toast conviction as I have ever seen. Though what, I wonder, were Fabers doing publishing it?



General Ludendorff: stand by your wall-maps

LONDON DIARY

How Lady Diana refused the Prince of Wales

You will have read all about it elsewhere in this edition. Now let me tell you about the other Lady Diana Spencer.

Take my word for it, there is nothing new under the sun, only old stories which are dusted down and have a new date put on them. The rumours about Lady Diana marrying the Prince of Wales first surfaced around 1729, the only difference being that on that occasion they eventually proved to be un*founded, although not through* want of trying by an ambitious family.

Lady Diana Spencer was born in 1708, the daughter of Charles *Spencer, Earl of Sunderland*, and of Lady Anne Churchill, one of the Marlboroughs from Blenheim. Her grandmother was the Duchess of Marlborough, wife of the first Duke, and that lady was quite determined that her granddaughter should do well.

The old Duchess had her eye on the Prince of Wales, Frederick Lewis, son of George II and Queen Caroline, and father of George III. Frederick would have almost certainly vanished into the mists of history had he not been immortalized in the snatch of doggerel about Poor Fred, who once was *alive but now is dead.*

However Lady Diana would have none of it. She was not at all enamoured of Poor Fred, despite his good connexions, *and to the great disappointment* of her grandmother, she went off and married the fourth Duke of Bedford.

The marriage was short-lived, for poor Lady Diana died four years later, in 1735, having given birth to a son who died in infancy. Although she had no direct descendants, she was an ancestral aunt, seven generations back, of the present Lady Diana, who seems to be an equally strong-minded lady (she must be to have put up with the recent close attentions of the popular press) but who I trust will be blessed with better fortune.

Rocky aisles

I trust too that the Royal wedding will be pleased with better fortune than some *previous* Royal nuptials.

Undoubtedly the most notorious conjugation was that between the Prince Regent, later George IV, and Caroline of Brunswick. Prinny's devotions always remained with Mrs Fitzherbert, and he was less than enthusiastic about Caroline's arrival in London. He declined to meet her in person, and after being forced into a formal introduction was so overwhelmed by her patent lack of pulchritude, and her breath which signalled at 30 paces that she was not using a proprietary mouthwash, that his only re*corded words were*: "Harris, I am not well; pray get me a glass of brandy".

Much brandy was again taken on the evening of the marriage ceremony at St James's Palace, at which the Prince reportedly "looked like Death and full of confusion, as if he wished to hide himself from the looks of the whole world." He had to be held up by his best man; indeed the only time he was able to stand up was just at the wrong moment of the ceremony, when he should have been kneeling, and he had to be restrained by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

His Royal Highness then *passed the entirety of his wed*ding night asleep on the bedroom floor.



King Edward VII, when still Prince of Wales, had a less than perfect wedding too, when he *married* Alexandra in March, 1863. His mother should have been up there in the front row, but it was just over a year since her beloved Prince Albert had died so tragically, and a pall of gloom was cast over the whole ceremony by the sight of Victoria, in her widow's weeds, sitting blackly in a curtained chapel above the altar.

More recent Royal weddings have passed off rather more smoothly. All I know about the marriage of Princess Elizabeth to the Duke of Edinburgh in 1947 was that during the rehearsal the two young pageboys, both Royal princes, took a firm dislike to each other and indulged in a fair old punch-up when they should have been holding the end of the Royal frock.

Nothing of that nature should befall our newest Royal betrothed, provided they don't decide to hold the ceremony in Fulham registry office on a Saturday just before a Chelsea game.

Matchbook

Mrs Thatcher could not have wished for more: a Royal engagement to divert the public mind from such discomforts as unemployment and Joe Gormley, and the birth of a new and dynamic British industry. The industry with the rosy future is the mass production of Royal engagement books.

First off the mark is almost certain to be Debrett, who by the time of yesterday's announcement already had a substantial volume set up in type and ready to go to press, bar a few last-minute checks to ensure that its informed speculations had indeed become hard fact. The book should be on sale within a matter of weeks.

Hugo Vickers, the author, told me yesterday: "I have been working on it for some time, and it will not be a last-minute rush job. Obviously there has been speculation about Lady Diana for some months, and I have used that time to prepare a full chapter on her. I sat down and did some thorough research on her, just in case she turned out to be the right one."

Vickers is *now working on a* biography of Cecil Beaton, while his rivals try frantically to catch a ride on the tidal wave of warm pink floss.

In their image

It appears that the White House had a steal on us all over the Royal *engagement. Four weeks* ago Nancy Reagan phoned a friend, Helen Boehm, and asked her porcelain firm to produce a customized porcelain dinner table centrepiece to the First Lady's requirements.

Mrs Boehm, a member of the Reagan's inauguration committee, agreed and her Malvern, Worcestershire, firm duly produced plans for models of Prince Charles and Lady Diana together surrounded by floral decorations. The firm's managing director, Hugh Padley, steadfastly refused to name the person who commissioned the design yesterday, but confirmed that the work is to go ahead at a cost of more than £1,000. The original will be given to the Royal couple by Mrs Reagan who will also keep a version for herself.

Hidden cost

A word to my erstwhile *Times* colleague Norman Fowler, now Secretary of State for Transport with a seat at Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet table; nobody seems to know what you charge for a motor cycle driving test.

One of my readers was in Parliament Street post office the other day, where he heard *another customer explaining to* the counter clerk that the application form for a two-wheeled driving test advised him to ask the post office about the fee: could she therefore please tell him? She could not, and appealed to her colleagues; they did not know either.

A uniformed police officer in the queue helpfully volunteered to put the query to *his* colleagues back at the station over his pocket radio. He put the question, and after much crackling and other background noises the reply came back loud and clear: "We don't know. Try the post office."

To save *Norman* any further trouble, I shall tell you on the authority of one of his spokesmen that the fee is £10.30.

A postscript to my item yesterday on when leap-year babies should celebrate their birthdays. A press notice from the House of Commons committee office tells me that a Special Report from the Social Services Committee will be published at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 29, and that copies will be available from the Vote Office on that date. If they don't want it circulated, why don't they use the Official Secrets Act as usual?

Alan Hamilton

هكذا من الأصل

lying into the next generation

THE TIMES

New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE HAPPIEST OF NEWS

With Downing Street in winter mood it is left to Buckingham Palace to cheer the spirits. Happiness that shows on the faces of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer and is shared by their families extends far and wide through the nation. The news comes as no surprise, but it is glad news and hopeful of the future.

The constitution, to Bagehot's way of thinking, resolves itself into effective and dignified parts with the monarchy heading the latter. The monarchy similarly resolves itself into its practical and sentimental functions: there is business of state and Commonwealth to be done, and there is the place the monarchy occupies in the hearts of people in the United Kingdom and of the contracting number of others in the Commonwealth for whom it is a real focus of allegiance.

The practical aspect of yesterday's announcement is the betrothal of the heir to the throne. This reinforces the succession (already well provided for by the fruitfulness of the House of Windsor) by potentially extending the direct line. That is all to the good. The sentimental aspect of the announcement is the confirmation of a royal romance. It is something to give pleasure to all but the stoniest hearts; and it is fitting that the Prince of Wales should enter married life when one considers the extent to which the monarchy is now regarded as an exemplar of the family.

From both the practical and the sentimental points of views his choice of bride is eminently suitable. She is not a princess of royal blood. That would once have been felt to be a disqualification. No longer. Arranged marriages are out of fashion in English society. The number and fertility of European crowned heads are not now such as to provide adequately and in all cases for a love match. The political and territorial by-products of a dynastic marriage have diminished in value to vanishing point—indeed the German affinities of the British Crown have been a matter of some embarrassment twice this century. The long-standing objection to a consort taken from one of the baronial houses of England or Scotland—jealousy among its peers—does not obtain today. No one fears that Earl Spencer will seize an advantage to become the most powerful counsellor in the realm. Above all, as a recommendation for the native option, there is still fresh in the mind the companionship on the throne of Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, the sweetness and dignity of her bearing.

Lady Diana Spencer was not brought up to royal duties. She has experienced, and weathered it well, one annoyance attending on her new position, hot pursuit by the world's press. Now that the will-they-won't-they lure is over, it is very much to be hoped that the fever of the press and television will subside within such limits and restraints as are usually observed in projecting the lives of members of the royal family.

When the Duke of Clarence, the eldest son of the Prince of Wales, became engaged to be married in 1891, Gladstone clumsily suggested that Queen Victoria might abdicate in favour of her son. No such advice, it may be assumed, will be offered to Her Majesty on this occasion. And it is surely the hope of her subjects that the idea of abdication in the foreseeable future is very far from her own mind. The respect and affection in which she is held and her deepening experience of affairs of state are of inestimable value to the nation. Kingship is not a job but a status. Only incapacity, nor the passing years, gives ground for retirement.

That confronts the Prince of Wales with the prospect of many more years as heir apparent. They need not be years of frustration. The royal couple may be glad not to be burdened with the full duties of the Crown in the early years of forming and bringing up a family. Royal tours abroad and other physically strenuous engagements are likely to pass increasingly from the Queen to her heir. Where governor-generalships survive in the Commonwealth it is now the practice for governments effectively to choose their own, but that does not mean that there are no important duties in connexion with the Commonwealth for the Prince of Wales to assume.

He has of course painstakingly to avoid the appearance of partisan engagement in politics or in issues which are the subject of political controversy. Business and financial enterprise and the world of superior public relations are also out of bounds. All that limits but does not remove the scope for a busy, useful and influential life. Nor does it prevent the Prince of Wales from cultivating strong opinions and preferences and expressing them publicly in words and action con brio—he is his father's son. In the burdens and the restraints of a royal life in waiting he will, according to the world's wisdom and his people's hope, be gratefully sustained by the loving partnership of marriage.

'HE NUB OF THE WASHINGTON AGENDA

:s Thatcher is not only the first ropean head of government to it President Reagan's Washgton but also the most popular the United States and the sest to him in outlook. She oadly shares his economic ilosophy, and will doubtless be le to tell him some of the scouraging lessons she has irnt in two years of trying to t it into practice. She also ares his view of the Soviet iion. Like him, she wants to ffen the West's defences and cooperate more closely in curing its interests outside the .to area.

There are however a number subjects on which the British d Americans do not altogether e eye to eye. One of the most portant is the Middle East. e tendency of the Reagan lministration to view regional nflicts—including those in the ddle East—in terms of the der East-West rivalry has so led it to play down the sigficance of the Palestinian estion.

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secrey of State, was this week rerted as saying that America d its allies should pay attenn to the strategic threat to the ulf rather than to the stalled gotiations over Palestinian itonomy under the Camp David imework. The Americans reain committed in principle to imp David, and are opposed to y attempt to broaden or supement Camp David in order to t talks on Palestine moving ain.

The Europeans, by contrast—th Britain taking the lead—see the two issues as inseparable. For them a settlement of the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Middle East problem. This is why they have tried to take the Camp David achievement farther by sounding out all the parties involved, including the Palestine Liberation Organization. This "European initiative", which is very largely the brainchild of Lord Carrington, began to take shape last summer at the EEC summit in Venice, when European leaders acknowledged (among other things) the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and urged that the PLO should be "associated" with future peace talks.

When they met again at Luxembourg in November the Europeans reviewed the practical problems involved. They discussed, for instance, what is meant by "self determination", how Israel's security can be guaranteed; and the future status of Jerusalem. The current President of the European Commission, Mr Gaston Thorn, toured the Middle East last summer, and the Dutch Foreign Minister, Mr Christopher Van Der Klaauw, is embarking on a further mission.

The Reagan Administration seems to regard even these very tentative moves as at best unhelpful, and at worst harmful. The American view is that Camp David needs no supplementing; that the PLO is a terrorist organization with which neither the United States nor Israel can negotiate; and that European "initiatives" are a distraction which encourage the PLO and its hardline Arab backers. Some of Mr Reagan's advisers see Lord Carrington's approach as little short of appeasement, and dismiss any notion that the PLO leader, Mr Yassir Arafat, can—like Mr Robert Mugabe, in Zimbabwe—be transformed into a respectable negotiating partner.

And yet there is more common ground than some of Mr Reagan's men would allow. While their emphasis is different, the British and their European partners do, after all, agree with Washington on the vital importance of Gulf security. Western Europe is even more dependent on oil from the Gulf than is America, and although the two sides may differ on how a western military presence in the Gulf should be used, the need for such a presence is not in doubt. Nor are the Europeans any less committed to the existence of Israel than the United States. The aim in Washington and Europe is the same: a peaceful Middle East in which both western interests and the state of Israel are secure.

The real difference is over the means to that end. The Europeans have perceived what some Americans, and indeed many Israelis, are reluctant to admit: that unless the Palestinians, both on the West Bank and in emigration, are given an effective outlet for their national aspirations, the tensions can only increase; and that if a solution is to be found, the PLO—despite its terrorist record—must be brought in, if only because it commands a high level of support among the Palestinians themselves, and is backed by important Arab nations.

HOW MANY LAST CHANCES FOR STEEL?

lary Tudor was chronicled as iying that when she was gone you shall find 'Calais' lying in iy heart". Sir Keith Joseph night be forgiven for applying ie same form of words in his wn case to the British Steel orporation. For it has become lear in recent months that the ationalized steel industry has een the biggest single trauma i the area of industrial policy or Mrs Thatcher's government s a whole and for her Secretary f State for Industry in articular.

In comparison the problems of, ay, British Leyland pale into elative insignificance. For it is ie British Steel Corporation that as during the past two years orced a series of decisions on the overnment which totally contradict the theory and the rhetoric bout the new approach to state idustry relations, which was uch a structural part of the platorm on which the Government 'as elected.

The failure of previous governients to withstand crude political pressures in favour of reserving excessive and inefficient steel making capacity made inevitable that the present iovernment were going to have roblems with the rationalization f the steel industry. It was, however, the accelerating collapse of world steel demand during 1979 and 1980 that turned a serious problem into an almost impossible one.

The rate of readjustment within the British steel industry required to bring long-term capacity down to likely demand levels and to increase the efficiency of retained capacity was in the circumstances much faster than could be achieved by conventional negotiation and agreement. The inevitable convulsion as British Steel tried to balance its books in the new and more hostile environment in which it found itself led directly to last year's national steel strike. That in itself further weakened the BSC's market position in 1980 as imports of steel came in to fill the gap.

The Government may have hoped that by appointing a new chairman for the BSC—and one with a tough reputation—there was a chance that the problems of the industry could now be handled at arm's length. This has not proved to be the case. The sums of money required to finance any kind of policy for the BSC, whether it be modernization, or contraction and redundancy, or merely preserving the status quo, are such as to make a major impact on central government financing.

In practice the Government had little option but to back Mr MacGregor's plan for his industry with the necessary cash from public funds. For the short-term costs of not doing so would have been overwhelming. It is, however, a measure of the frustration that the Prime Minister and the Cabinet as a whole feel about being unable to extricate themselves from the coils of the BSC that Sir Keith Joseph's original recommendation in its favour was sent back for reconsideration and only endorsed this week.

Within the very limited room for manoeuvre in fact available to the Government, Sir Keith Joseph yesterday indicated the direction in which he would in future lean. The Bill now introduced, by removing the present general duty to supply iron and steel products, would allow the BSC simply to give up certain areas of activity in future. When Sir Keith said that this was the corporation's "last chance to become profitable" his listeners might have been forgiven for thinking that they had heard the phrase before and were likely to hear it again. He was, however, serving notice that under this Government the pressure of market forces would be steadily increased on the BSC.

Rates and taxes

From Mr J. A. Charman

Sir, Your correspondent of February 20 (Mr B. Griffiths), in referring to Mrs Thatcher's undertaking when in opposition to abolish domestic rates, asks what happens to these pious proposals once oppositions become governments. Perhaps it is that, in the case of rates, they are found not really to be as unfair as people often suppose. They are certainly fairer than income tax, in that it is not possible to evade rates.

Virtually every country in the world has an annual property tax, which is what rates are, and if domestic rates were abolished in this country and replaced by local income tax or a poll tax or whatever, then it is a racing certainty that some future government will introduce an annual property tax, probably calling it something other than rates, and then we shall have two taxes instead of one.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. CHARMAN,
53 The Avenue,
Gravesend,
Kent.
February 20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water threat: need of early decision

From Mr J. M. Dennes

Sir, If the Government are going to make concessions to the current demands of (in particular) the water and sewerage workers, will they please follow their recent precedent in the case of the miners by giving way sooner rather than later.

The people of this country, who have been told to expect at least inconvenience and disruption of services, and at worst hardship and serious health risks, from a prolonged national strike in the water industry, will be entitled to claim that they should have been spared this unnecessary suffering if, after a strike lasting the requisite number of weeks, the employers' "final" offer of 10 per cent proves to have been no more than a stepping-stone to settlement at a higher figure.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. DENNES,
Plantation House,
31-35 Fenchurch Street, EC3.
February 23.

Civil servants' demands

From Mr R. J. Gardner

Sir, Mr John Ward's letter (February 20) would imply that neither he nor the first division civil servants that he represents have any idea what is going on around them. He must know that industrial production declined by 15 per cent over the past year. The reduction in the Civil Service has not been comparable and there is therefore less money and not more to share out among its members.

If Mr Ward still wants some measure of pay comparability, could I suggest that he and some of his colleagues spend a week or two with some of the hard-pressed private sector companies—say in textiles or motor components—and during that time count the number of redundancies made recently and assess those still to be made.

It would be salutary to compare these with their own relative job security and, perhaps even more chastening, to learn of wage settlements recently negotiated and compare these with their own aspirations.

Not least they should consider the good fortune they enjoy in long holidays—not enforced by short time working—early retirement and index-linked pensions and ask themselves, after studying the accounts of the private sector companies, how these companies could possibly afford similar benefits for their employees.

On reflection, Mr Ward and his colleagues might feel they should take the modest rise they have been offered for fear of any searching review recommending a reduction.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. GARDNER,
The Coach House,
Barley Thorpe,
Near Oakham,
Rutland.
February 20.

Nationality proposals

From Mrs Eileen O'Connor

Sir, According to Mr Ronald Butt (February 19), "Nationality has to be redefined, even if some of its consequences seem hard to some individuals, in order to recreate national cohesion. I cannot see what on religious or moral grounds, is objectionable about that." I can, but to become involved in a moral or religious debate would be to evade the issue. The problems we face are practical as well as academic, and if we tackle the practical problems the religious and moral questions will take care of themselves. If, on the other hand, we spend our time debating the moral and religious questions the practical problems will multiply and become increasingly unmanageable and we could well end up by losing the world and our souls.

It is not immigrants who threaten our national cohesion, it is too many jobless, homeless, hopeless people, and their numbers are growing. Using the law as a weapon against a minority is easier and cheaper than eliminating the breeding grounds for racial tension by adopting radical housing,, employment, and educational programmes; but in the long run the law will be unable to prevent the national disintegration which will be the inevitable consequence of years of social neglect. If all immigration were brought to an abrupt halt, and every immigrant were to leave the country tomorrow, our social and economic problems would remain to be solved, and we would soon be scurrying about in search of other scapegoats.

The Germans would claim with justification that they did not know where the Nazi concepts of national rejuvenation and cohesion, based on policies of racial purity, would lead. We know where they led, and if we allow it to happen here, either by accident, indifference or design, there will be no excuses for us.

Yours faithfully,
E. P. O'CONNOR,
114 Eton Rise,
Eton College Road, NW3.
February 20.

Breath test controls

From Mr Jackie Stewart

Sir, I was interested to read the recent correspondence regarding the recommendations in the report prepared by Judge Blennerhassett designed to limit the number of casualties on the road caused through drinking and driving offences.

In my own view there can be no more fundamental crime than a driver causing injury or death where alcohol has impaired the driver's judgment and ability.

If, therefore, it is necessary for police to have the powers to take breath tests when given sufficient reasonable cause, then I am wholly in favour of such a measure since it must lessen the appalling family tragedies that result from each and every road accident.

Yours faithfully,
JACKIE STEWART,
24 Route de Divonne,
1260 Nyon,
Vaud, Switzerland.
February 21.

Time for Cabinet second thoughts

From Mr Charles Morrison, MP for Devizes (Conservative), and others

Sir, In the past, Conservative Governments have intervened to assist industry directly or indirectly whenever industry has been faced with problems beyond its own control. The Conservative Party is not a laisser-faire party and as the modern Conservative Party believes in a mixed economy, it has been able to assess and react to the needs of the public sector as much as to the private sector. It also stands to reason that there is likely to be a greater need for intervention at a time of world and domestic recession.

We are therefore not surprised that in the public sector the Government manifestly has had to change its policy of relying on cash limits. What does perplex us, however, is that while rushing to assist British Steel, BL, the railways and the National Coal Board, the Government is doing far too little to assist the private sector through the worst recession in fifty years. To make matters worse much of the money made available for the public sector comes from the private sector, and may be used to undermine the private sector; this is particularly true of the steel industry. Moreover resources which might be available to Government to assist the private sector are reduced.

Surely the time has come for the Government swiftly to undertake a reappraisal of industry's problems, to develop a new industrial strategy which will take account of them, and to launch it in the Budget with a package of measures to aid industry and to contain the continual growth of unemployment. The certainty of 3 million unemployed, whatever action is taken, is something to which we look forward with horror.

Come what may, the Chancellor must reduce interest rates again. Further thought must be given to methods of controlling the strength of sterling. With our North Sea oil, sterling appreciates every time there is an oil price increase. Our export industries will be destroyed and our import of manufactured goods will grow unless the rate of appreciation of sterling can be deliberately moderated.

Should not the Government also look again at its energy pricing policy? The policy may be logical, but is it wise to pile extra costs on to industry in its present vulnerable state?

In the current appalling employment situation, the Government should initiate a programme of capital investment which does not give rise to later revenue expenditure. The Job Release Scheme should be extended to encourage early retirement. More training opportunities should be made available for school-leavers. The National Insurance surcharge should be removed. Finally, we are convinced it would help no one if the Chancellor resorted to increases in direct taxation.

It is almost two years since the last general election. Probably there will not be much more than two and a half years to the next. If the Government is to be seen to have succeeded by then, it must immediately develop industrial and economic policies less concerned with abstract theories which assume ideal conditions, and much more closely related to the harsh economic climate which exists.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MORRISON,
DENNIS WALTERS,
RICHARD NEEDHAM,
MICHAEL HAMILTON,
House of Commons.

'Exporting revolution'

From Mr Walter Kendall

Sir, The remarks made by Mr Rukhadze, of the Novosti Press Agency in Moscow (February 17) regarding the communist attitude to terrorism are either astonishingly misinformed or deliberately misleading.

Mr Rukhadze must surely be aware that while Lenin was still alive the Russian War Minister published a book-length treatise under the title *The Defence of Terrorism*.

I have a copy of the first English edition by me as I write and I quote:

> Terror can be very efficient against a reactionary class which does not want to leave the scene of operations. Intimidation is a powerful weapon of policy both internationally and internally. War, like revolution is founded upon intimidation . . . The revolution works in the same way; it kills individuals and intimidates thousands. (Leon Trotsky, *The Defence of Terrorism*, p 55, London, 1921).

This policy has not changed over the years. The Communist International, which from the beginning to end operated under the direct control of the Russian party, schematized what is still the official Soviet doctrine on this issue in its handbook, *Armed Insurrection*, which first appeared in Germany during 1928. In this we read:

> One of the first objectives of the *insurrection . . . may be the liquidation* of counter-revolutionary leaders. . . . The liquidation of reactionary commanding officers and of the leaders of counter revolutionary parties, etc. This objective will often dominate all others from the very first moment of the uprising. . . . The liquidation of the old regime's top leaders, and of its active defenders, during the insurrection, is of the first importance.
> In all insurrections in which the insurgents have not succeeded, or succeeded in time, in liquidating the leaders of counter revolution, they have been defeated.

"Marxism allows terror in a revolutionary period, during the immediate struggles of the proletariat for power", the Comintern handbook concludes (A. Neuberg, *Armed Insurrection*, pp 202-204, London, New Left Books Edition, 1970.)

How in the light of this written evidence, the practical experience of Stalin's purges, designed to "terrorize" the nation into submission, the recent murder of millions conducted by the communist regime in Cambodia Mr Rukhadze can presume to write as he does, escapes me. Perhaps he will care to explain?

Yours sincerely,
WALTER KENDALL,
Ruskin College, Oxford.
February 17.

Canada's Constitution

From Mrs A. C. Geddes

Sir, I speak as a Canadian who has lived in Great Britain for many years. We are all touchy about the British North America Act. It is difficult to believe that even Mr Trudeau could be tactless enough to throw the onus on to the British Government. There are two decisions, both of which would alienate provinces of east or west.

The British Government's only answer should be: "Have a referendum and we will give effect to the democratic decision".

Yours faithfully,
A. C. GEDDES,
Farriers,
South Road,
Liphook,
Hampshire.
February 21.

Securing art for the nation

From the Editor of Apollo

Sir, The welcome purchase by the Manchester City Art Gallery of "one of the greatest" paintings by Claude is reported by Geraldine Norman (February 19), who adds that, though the open market valuation was £625,000, the Gallery paid "only" £253,956 for it. The reason for the lower sum is that while the proceeds of an open market sale (carrying the prospect of probable departure from this country) would have been taxable, the proceeds from a private treaty sale to a public institution in this country are by statute tax-free.

The fact is, however, that this notable picture could have passed into public possession without any money whatsoever having to be painfully raised from a multitude of sources (including the National Art-Collections Fund, the Wolfson Foundation, the National Heritage Memorial Fund, and various local charitable funds). Most regrettably, though it could have been offered in satisfaction of tax, the owners were discouraged by the Capital Taxes Office from doing so. Since this may seem incredible, I must refer your readers to the very explicit letter from the family solicitors to Lord Rosse, then Chairman of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries, which was published on page 253 of the Report of 1978 of the House of Commons Select Committee on the National Land Fund.

It should be added that an exceptionally fine landscape by Hobbema from the same collection was offered for this purpose, but was refused on the scarcely believable ground that it too did not qualify as "pre-eminent" according to the statutory requirement. This major example of Dutch landscape was subsequently acquired by private treaty by the National Gallery of Scotland for £197,568 on the basis of an open market valuation of £385,000.

Both galleries are to be congratulated on having retained these important pictures in this country (at a cost to them of more than £450,000), and praise is also due to the owners and their agents for having given them the opportunity to do so. But genuinely effective steps should now be taken to ensure that the practical machinery for dealing with offers in satisfaction of tax is in future foolproof, so that public institutions and their supporters in the private sector are not compelled to raise funds to remedy the caprices of autocratic bureaucracy.

Finally, it is heartening to learn that Sir Michael Levey, the Director of the National Gallery, has now been able to persuade the Capital Taxes Office to take a more liberal view.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
DENYS SUTTON, Editor,
Apollo,
22 Davies Street, W1.
February 19.

The 'unsinkable' Titanic

From Mr Michael Hollis

Sir, Philip Howard tells us that he has been unable to find any evidence that the Titanic was hailed as "unsinkable" until after it sank. What he means, as the subsequent citation of his sources makes clear, is that he found no evidence in contemporary newspapers.

But a special edition of the magazine *Shipbuilder* in 1911 described the vessel's system of transverse bulkheads and watertight doors, pointing out that "The Captain may, by simply moving an electric switch, instantly close the doors throughout and make the vessel practically unsinkable."

This reputation seems to have gotten round to the passengers. One who survived, as she watched deck hands loading luggage at Southampton, asked one of them: "Is this ship really non-sinkable?" To which she received a reply that echoes down the years: "Yes, lady. God Himself could not sink this ship." Again, as the passengers, alerted by the crew, began turning out of their cabins and donning lifebelts, one young miss later recalled that four days previously, when a steward had placed a lifebelt in her stateroom, she had teased him for doing so, if the ship was really meant to be so unsinkable.

Major Peuchen, who survived because he was a yachtsman who could manage a lifeboat, recalled later that soon after the collision he sensed a slight tilt in the deck and remarked on this to a friend, who replied unconcernedly "Oh, I don't know. You cannot sink this boat."

To be sure, "unsinkability" was not trumpeted abroad too loudly. White Star Line had lost the Republic, 15,378 tons, in 1909. But some people at least believed that technology had gone beyond this by the time the Titanic was launched in 1911. These opinions (and other opinions on other matters) assumed a pretty fragile appearance after that fateful night in 1912.

Sincerely,
MICHAEL HOLLIS,
53 Romsey Road,
Winchester.
February 15.

Repairs at Palace of Westminster

From Lord Moyne

Sir, The letter you published on February 18 from the Master of the Worshipful Company of Masons regarding the repairs urgently needed to the Palace of Westminster concludes by a self-denying reference to present economic conditions. But surely, Sir, expenditure on essential maintenance that will have some day to be done is exactly what needs to be undertaken at lower cost in a period of recession rather than at a higher one later in the period of boom, when deterioration will incidentally have increased. It is surely possible to keep a roof over the head of the Mother of Parliaments without overheating our freezing economy.

Yours faithfully,
MOYNE,
House of Lords.
February 23

EEC languages

From Professor J. Coveney

Sir, David Wood's article (February 16) on the "High cost of EEC's Tower of Babel" contains an inaccurate statement, namely that the "definitive treaty language of the Community continues to be French". The Treaty of Rome stipulates that the languages of all the member states are of equal status. It is true, however, that French continues to be the most commonly used language in the Community because it is the language of three member states, coupled with the fact that the Community institutions are located in French-speaking cities.

The position regarding official languages in the European Parliament was determined by the misfortune that Britain was not a member of the first European Community (the Coal and Steel Community) which decided that all the languages of the original six members, ie Dutch, French, German and Italian, should have equal status. Those four languages were the official languages of the Common Assembly of the Coal and Steel Community. Had Britain beee a member of that Community at the outset it is highly probable that English and French would have been the only official languages of the Common Assembly (ancestor of the European Parliament), as is still the case in the parent organization, the Council of Europe with its Parliamentary Assembly.

It is almost too late: any attempt to reduce the number of official languages in the European Parliament will arouse linguistic nationalism, always latent in international assemblies.

Yours faithfully,
J. COVENEY,
School of Modern Languages,
University of Bath,
Claverton Down,
Bath.
February 18.

Destiny of the Church

From the Reverend Eric Inglesby

Sir, Although your Religions Affairs Correspondent (February 16) splendidly pinpointed the basic issue confronting the Synod in its debate on church unity, we cannot agree that the choice lies between "the Roman and Orthodox churches" on the one hand, and "those of the Reformation tradition" on the other.

We believe that there are *three* distinct choices, as we accept the traditional Orthodox view that the Roman Church is seriously in error, just as did the Reformers. But unlike the Reformers, who failed to realize the fact, we believe that the true faith has been preserved intact within holy orthodoxy and that salvation, for the Church of England and everyone else, lies that way alone, rather than in Protestantism; and certainly not with Rome.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC INGLESBY,
Honorary Secretary,
The Anglo-Orthodox Society,
Spring Cottage,
West End Gardens,
Fairford,
Gloucestershire.
February 16.

Wizards that were

From Mr Jack Adrian

Sir, I think Partridge was taking a bit of a risk when he said (Philip Howard, "The wizard of was" February 23) that slang only reaches school children after its reached everyone else. Surely some words and phrases have originated in the classroom, playground, or even the nursery, and thence slipped into common usage. In the case of "wizard", my understanding is that the word, used in the wizard-prang sense, comes from the boys' story-paper *The Wizard*, one of the so-called "Big Five" story-papers (*Adventure*, *Rover*, *Skipper* and *Hotspur* being the other four) which emanated from Dundee before the war.

In its original sense—*The Wizard* first came out in 1922—the word was synonymous with magician, sorcerer and the like, but gradually, over the 1920s and 1930s, it came to be used as a superlative. It's interesting to note that in A. J. Jenkinson's *What Do Boys and Girls read?* (1940, quoted in Turner's *Boys Will Be Boys*) *The Wizard* headed the list of favourite papers read by boys in the 12-15 years old age group. By 1943, a good percentage of that group would have been in the armed forces, and not a few in the RAF.

Certainly, the word may well have been used as a jargon-word in the junior common room at Oriel in 1931-34, and taken up by Waugh, Rose Macaulay, and the rest, but I doubt that it stayed the course as such right up until the early 1940s. More likely, the secondary and public schoolboys of that era revived it, unwittingly, by lifting it from their favourite reading-matter.

Yours faithfully,
JACK ADRIAN,
22 Sumatra Road,
West Hampstead, NW6.
February 23.

The engagement of the Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer











Left : Charles, aged one, with the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth ; Centre : the young Prince aged nine ; Right : Charles takes part *in a revue during his last year at Cambridge.*





Playing polo, 1969 ; and right, as captain of HMS Bronington, 1976.

One of the trials and vexations of being a Prince of Wales is the obsessive interest that complete strangers take in his private life. This is not simple prurience or vulgar star-*worship, though a lot of it is. It springs* from the religious roots of the monarchy as tribal totem and symbol of continuity. The monarch is not a crowned president. She is anointed. She represents a supernatural element in the nation. It may be tough luck (as the previous Prince of Wales found), but more than anybody else in the nation the Prince has a duty to marry the right person and produce heirs to keep the line going. It may be superstition. But whom he marries is an important matter for the nation, as well as a matter of excitement for the gossip *columns.*

The Prince is aware of the duty and the importance. One *locus classicus* for his views on his marriage was in a television interview with Brian Connell in 1969: "You have got to choose somebody very carefully who could fulfil this particular role because people like you, perhaps, would expect quite a lot from somebody like that ; and it has got to be somebody pretty special ".

The other *locus classicus* came five years later when Kenneth Harris suggested that it was unlikely that he would marry someone who was neither of royal lineage nor an aristocrat : "There's no essential reason why I shouldn't. I'd be perfectly free to. What would make it unlikely would be accidental, not essential. Whatever your place in life, when you marry you're forming a partnership which you hope will last, say, 50 years—I certainly hope so, because, as I told you, I've been brought up in a close-*knit happy family, and family life means* more to me than anything else. So I'd want to marry someone who had interests which I understood and could share.

"Then look at it from the woman's point of view. A woman not only marries a man ; she marries into a way of life in which she's got a contribution to make. She's got to have some knowledge of it, some sense of it, or she wouldn't have a clue about whether she's going to like it. And if she didn't have a clue it would be risky for her, wouldn't it? If I'm deciding on whom I want to live with for 50 years—well, that's the last decision in which I would want my head to be ruled entirely by my heart. It's nothing to do with class ; it's to do with compatability. There are as many cases of marriages turning *out unsatisfactorily because a man* married 'above' himself as there are when he married 'below'. Marriage isn't an 'up' or 'down' issue, anyway : it's a side-by-side one." Quite so.

The last time a Prince of Wales married was on March 10, 1863 at St George's, Windsor. Tennyson celebrated the event with courtierly verses :

> Sea-King's daughter from over the sea,
> Alexandra !
> Saxon and Norman and Dane are we,
> But all of us Danes in our welcome to
> thee, Alexandra !

We look forward to the present Poet Laureate's celebration, with pity and terror. Is it any longer possible for anybody other than E. Thribb to write serious ceremonial verses for such an occasion ?

After the Prince has married, by the old-fashioned logic of the monarchy it will be possible to think again about his career. By definition the chief function of a Prince of Wales consists of waiting to succeed. It is important that he should not rust in strenuous idleness in the way that the Prince who became Edward VII was forced to by his mother's traditional and unconscious jealousy of her heir.

Prince Charles's preparation for his job has been magnificent : almost too *conscientious. After surviving the old-*fashioned rigours of Cheam and the new-fashioned heartiness of Gordonstoun, he blossomed into an interesting and amusing person at Timbertop and Cambridge. He is the first close member of the Royal Family to have taken a university degree ; perhaps the first since George IV to have been capable of one. The RAF and the Navy were a success : he enjoyed them and was good at the work. But he left too soon. His organization of the silver jubilee appeal was a triumph that confounded the cynics.

Since then his job has been what is officially described as "pursuing a programme of familiarization with various aspects of public life in Britain". The trouble is that a visit to some industry organized by the *National Economic* Development Office, a day behind the scenes at Downing Street, or an afternoon in the gallery of the House of Commons does not seem to sceptics exactly a *proper* job; more like the crash course in public life organized for a Miss World. Most of the Prince's contemporaries at Cambridge, in their early 30s, have reached the stage in their careers where they have demanding and responsible work to do.

The Prince is always irritated when somebody suggests that he does not do a proper job. He certainly has a very full diary and very busy day. It is true that his course of familiarization with all aspects of public life is undertaken in addition to the heavy normal round of *royal duties and repeated* visits abroad. Switzerland, Zimbabwe, the Netherlands, India this year, in addition to frequent private visits : the burden of them sounds intolerable to less eager travellers. He does a *great deal of work on his trusts,* and charities, and estates. But that is the sort of work that retired major-generals were invented to perform.

One of the suggestions has been that he should be *introduced to the executive* side of the monarchy business by being made a governor-general. It is accepted (viz: silly) Palace wisdom that Commonwealth countries will not take a bachelor governor-general: they want the wife, children, entertainment, and image of ideal nuclear family life. The trouble with that suggestion is that the job in *Canada* is at present intensely exposed and political: and Edward Schreyer was sworn in to it only in January 1979. The Australians do not want a Pommy, and the job, after the *passage* between John Kerr and *Gough Whitlam,* is likely to become critically political again. New Zealand perhaps? Or one of the new Commonwealth countries? As is natural in his position, the Prince really does believe that the Commonwealth exists and is valuable.

If a job in the Commonwealth gets the thumbs-down, why cannot he take a job in industry or *the Civil Service?* One can see that something in private industry would be invidious and possibly unfair to the competitors. It would be an unkind and unnatural punishment to send him to British Leyland. But there are plenty of responsible and unpolitical jobs that he could do well in a nationalized industry or a department of state. Trade seems vulgar to *some in the* Palace. It never seemed so to George VI, who knew that Britain lives or dies by it.

Another consequence of the Prince's marriage will be that he will have to find himself a place of his own in London. He has lived at home for long enough, subject *to the restrictions of gerontocracy,* hierarchy, and tradition that are part of a hereditary monarchy. He needs to get this right after the indecisive muddle that he made over Chevening.

Another vexation of being Prince of Wales is that journalists will write impertinent pieces on set occasions. We note with joy that the Prince's love of music and particularly the opera is genuinely deep. With his grandmother and his aunt he keeps the cultural flag flying for the Royal Family. We note with *gloom that he has got a country house* in Gloucestershire to be near the hunting and the older Hooray Henrys, who seem to the captious to be too numerous among his close friends. An unmarried Prince of Wales finds the company of older married men and women easier, because the marriage question does *not arise.* That difficulty now ends. If we are bound to niggle in order to display our virility, we might say that as a bachelor he has been in danger of becoming Action Man.

We are delighted that he has kept his anarchic sense of humour, but hope that it will soon progress beyond the Goons. He must not imitate his father in lecturing his audiences to work harder and do better; and he really must drop the regular jokey introduction to his speeches: "I can't think why you have asked me to speak, because I *know nothing about silicon chips.*" (or, as it might be, "farming guinea *fowls*"). *If* he really can't think why, somebody should tell him.

Impertinence apart, it is generally agreed that we are lucky to have such a promising, intelligent, and conscientious young man, who is likely, when put on, to prove most royally.

If one were writing a Tacitean account *of his engagement, in which everything* is arranged by court intrigue, one might observe mischievously that the Queen Mother's party (Livia ?) had defeated the Mountbatten party (Agrippina ?). It is a remarkable coincidence, even in this magic circle, that both Lady Diana Spencer's grandmothers and four of her great-aunts were or still are attendants in the *Queen Mother's court.*

Countess Spencer (1897-1972) was her Lady *of the* Bedchamber. Ruth *Lady* Fermoy, the other grandmother, has been a Woman of the Bedchamber since 1960. Lady Delia Peel (b 1889) was an Extra Woman of the Bedchamber. Her sister, originally Lady Lavinia Spencer, who died in 1955, was an Extra Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen Mother when she was Duchess of York ; the Queen Mother was her bridesmaid. *Lady Katharine* Seymour (b 1900) is an Extra Woman of the Bedchamber. And the Dowager Duchess of Abercorn, the fourth great aunt, is Mistress of the Robes *to the* Queen Mother, who is fenced around with Spencers. She will have as many Spencers around her at the wedding as the bride.

Philip Howard

'Perfect candidate' for a highly demanding job

Shy, innocent, modest, retiring, demure and coy, the girl next door. . . . These are just some of the labels which have stuck like confetti to Lady Diana Spencer during the intense speculation leading up to yesterday's announcement of her engagement to Prince Charles.

It was for some of these reasons that she has seemed to many people such an *eminently suitable choice to* become the first Princess of Wales since 1901 and the future Queen of England.

Although not immediately of royal blood, Lady Diana belongs to a family which has had close links with royalty for centuries and is distantly related.

She was born on the Sandringham estate in Norfolk and the family moved in 1975 to Althorp, Northamptonshire, when her father assumed the earldom. Despite the families' close proximity, Lady Diana said she first recalls meeting Prince Charles in November, 1977.

Lady *Diana* is *considered* by friends to be the perfect candidate for what must be one of the most demanding of jobs, although one that has the attraction of immense prestige.

At the age of 19 she is young enough not to have been seriously involved with other men—something that is said to have been an important consideration to Prince Charles and his advisers — and mature enough to be discreet about her relationship with him without antagonizing the press.

Her youth is in contrast to some of the *older and* more independent women whom Charles has previously accompanied, and the 12-year age gap may well have provoked some serious doubts.

But it does have the advantage of making her more adaptable to the strict demands of royal protocol and the relentless exposure to the ever-inquisitive media demanding access to the royal couple's private life.

In addition to that she is pretty, poised and with a stylish sense of dress. Her teaching at a kindergarten in Pimlico in central London is said to have pleased the *Queen, reflecting both professionalism* and enjoyment of children.

The close family connexions with the Royal Family have also given her experience in handling the pressures which accompanied her relationship with Prince Charles ; her modesty and charm have prevented her falling into some of the traps which led to the rapid exodus of *his* less *discreet* girl friends.

To palace-watchers, the engagement is seen as something of a triumph for the Queen Mother.

The late Lady Annaly, a great-aunt of Lady Diana, was a close friend of the Queen Mother. It is well known that Charles is extremely fond of his grandmother and he may well have been *influenced by this* link.

Not that there is likely to have been any opposition to the engagement within Buckingham Palace. The Queen is apparently delighted with the choice and Prince Philip has been *chivvying Charles* for some time to make up his mind.

The ties between the two families can only have facilitated the decision. Lady *Diana's father, the eighth* Lord Spencer, has been within the royal circle for many years and was equerry to King George VI between 1950-52 and to the Queen for two years after her accession.

King George III and Queen Charlotte were godparents to one of the daughters of the second earl, who was First Lord of the Admiralty and Secretary of State. The third earl was Chancellor of the Exchequer and the fourth a rear-admiral and Lord Chamberlain. The fifth was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, First Lord of the Admiralty, Keeper of the Privy Seal and Groom of the *Stole to the* Prince Consort and to Edward VII when he was Prince of Wales. The sixth was Lord Chamberlain to Edward VII and George V. Lady Diana is the youngest daughter of Lord Spencer's four children by his first marriage to Frances, Lord Fermoy's sister. The union was dissolved in 1969.

Her stepmother is Raine, formerly Lady Dartmouth, the daughter of *the* romantic novelist Barbara Cartland. The marriage would therefore make Miss Cartland Prince Charles's step-grandmother-in-law.

The divorce of Lady Diana's parents, which in earlier and more rigid times might have proved an obstacle to the marriage, has hardly been mentioned. *Her mother has remarried, to* Mr Peter Shand Kydd. The children are still close to her.

Lady Diana and Prince Charles are distantly related. According to Mr David Williamson, senior contributing editor of Burke's Peerage, they are seventh cousins once removed, both being descended from King James I and having a common ancestor in the third Duke of Devonshire.

Other genealogists have traced her family back to King Charles II, with various connexions with the Dukedom of Abercorn, the Dukes of Richmond and the Lucan *family.*

They are also distantly related to the Spencer-Churchills, the Marlborough family.

Lord Spencer's friendship with the Royal Family has meant that the Queen is godmother to Lady Diana's brother, and her two sisters, Lady Sarah and Lady Jane, are godchildren of the Queen Mother and the Duke of Kent. Lady Jane is married to Mr Robert Fellowes, one of the Queen's assistant private secretaries.

The sixteenth-century house at Althorp, with its thousands of acres of farmland, has been the family home for generations. It houses one of the finest private art collections in the country, including portraits by Reynolds, Gainsborough and Van Dyck. The earl fell seriously ill two years ago and, despite a formidable effort, has made only a partial recovery.

Speculation about a romance started last August when it was discovered that Lady Diana had spent a weekend at Balmoral.

She had often been seen with the Prince previously, but normally in the company of her elder sister, Lady Sarah, who is a close friend of Charles.

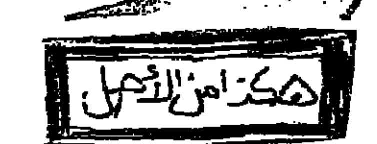
The speculation was fuelled by reports that two of Prince Charles's confidantes, Lady Tryon and Camilla Parker-Bowles, had given their approval to the romance.

Buckingham Palace, which has weathered many storms of publicity about the Prince's love life, refused to comment.

So the announcement has *put an end* to a popular and long-running form of entertainment : predicting who and when Prince Charles would marry.

With the millions of words and rash predictions now forgotten, the focus of attention will presumably shift to when a future heir to the throne will arrive.

John Witherow





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 24: It is with the greatest pleasure that The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh announce the betrothal of their beloved son The Prince of Wales to the Lady Diana Spencer, daughter of the Earl Spencer and the Hon Mrs Shand Kydd.
The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.
The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.
The Duke of Edinburgh, as an Honorary Fellow of the Plastics and Rubber Institute, this morning at Buckingham Palace presented the Institute's Prince Philip Award to Mr P. Sharrock.
Afterwards His Royal Highness was present at luncheon with the Council Members of the Institute (President, Mr S. Gibbs) at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, SW1.
Major John Cargill was in attendance.
His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening attended a Dinner in connexion with the Award Scheme at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, W1.
Lord Rupert Nevill was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 24: The Hon Mrs John Mulholland has succeeded the Lady Elizabeth Basset as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 24: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at a Concert given by Marvin Hamlisch, in aid of the National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare and the Variety Club of Great Britain, at the Royal Festival Hall.
The Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

Birthdays today

John Arlott, 67; Mr Anthony Burgess, 64; Mr Tom Courtenay, 44; Sir Antony Duff, 61; Sir Alan ...rre, 67; the Right Rev Dr J. Ramsbotham, 75; Sir Henry T. Smith, 76; Air Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, 53.

Today's engagements

The Queen attends reception given by Association of Lancastrians, Middle Temple, 6.30.
The Duke of Edinburgh chairs selection committee for Duke of Edinburgh's Designer's Prize, Design Centre, Haymarket, 10.30; as honorary member of Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers lunches with members, Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, 1; as patron of Conference on Human Value holds reception, Buckingham Palace, 6.
The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, dines with officers of 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire, 7.15.
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visits Frank Coles House, College of St Mark and St John Foundation, Bethnal Green, 3.30.
Chairman of the Greater London Council leaves for two-day official visit to Cardiff at invitation of the Chairman of the South Glamorgan County Council.
Talks, lectures: Mark Rothko, Mark Tobey, Tate Gallery, 1; Tosch, Ann Slee, National Gallery, 1; A medieval masterpiece, the royal gold cup, Kensington, Whitehorn, British Museum, 11.30; The lion in Greek art, Anne Pearson, British Museum, 1.15; An evening with Geraint Evans, Music Club of London, Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, 7.30; Science fiction poetry, Edwin Morgan, Poetry Society, 21 Earls Court Square, 7.30; Hampstead Heath border lands, Christopher Ikin, Burgh House, New End Square, 8; The two-way media, a tool for the third world, Dr Larry Sonic, Africa Centre, 38 King Street, 6.30.
Per Stampe 1981, Royal Horticultural Society, Greycoat Street and Vincent Square, 10-8.
Lunchtime music: Richard Townend plays Bach, St Margaret Lothbury, 1.10; Erica Klemperer, violin, Holy Sepulchre, 1.15.
Memorial services: Sir James Martin, St Clement Danes, Strand, noon; Mr Arnold Haskell, St Paul's, Covent Garden, noon.

Sandringham charges

Admission charges to Sandringham House and royal gardens are to be increased by 10 pc. In the six month season for visitors to the Norfolk mansion begins on April 19 when adults will be charged £1.10 but pensioners will pay 80p.

Forthcoming marriages

Major A. J. Pearson and Dr G. C. Court
The engagement is announced between Anthony John Pearson, The Royal Green Jackets, elder son of General Sir Thomas and Lady Pearson, of Streete House, Ross-on-Wye, and Gillian Charlotte, only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel David Court, and the late Mrs Mary Court, of Drynham Lodge, Weybridge.

Mr S. E. J. Compson and Miss K. M. Neligan
The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of Captain and Mrs E. W. Compson, of Shorne, Kent, and Katie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T. P. M. Neligan, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr G. C. Crosson and Miss J. R. Ingham
The engagement is announced between Graham, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T. C. Crosson of Westville, Natal, and Jane, elder daughter of Commander and Mrs R. S. S. Ingham, of 14 Abelia Road, Kloof, Natal.

Mr B. T. Murray and Miss C. E. Baer
The engagement is announced between Brian, son of Mr T. Murray, of Dublin, and the late Mrs Murray, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. A. H. Baer, of Braintree, Essex.

Mr G. F. Reynolds and Miss H. B. Mathews
The engagement is announced between Guy, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Ford Reynolds, of Wellington, New South Wales, and Harriet, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Mathews, of Rutland Grove, Hammersmith.

Mr J. S. Trapp and Miss S. L. Hyde
The engagement is announced between James, son of Professor and Mrs J. B. Trapp, of 26 Vyner Road, London, W3, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. T. Hyde, of 5 Lakeside, London, W13.

Mr A. M. Whaley and Miss J. M. R. de Baer
The engagement is announced between Anthony Michael, youngest son of Mr and Mrs A. Whaley, of Finchampstead, Berkshire, and Jacqueline Margaret Rudston, daughter of Mr P. R. de Baer, of Barnes and Mrs C. Olding, of Ecchinswell, Newbury, Berkshire.

Luncheons

Royal Society of Chemistry
The President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Professor Sir Ewart Jones, was host at a luncheon party held at 30 Russell Square, yesterday. The guests included: Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, Dr Dickson Mabon, MP, Mr Dennis Wilkinson, Dr Jeremy Bray, MP, Mr Arthur Palmer, Professor D. H. R. Barton, Mr A. N. Brown, Dr W. Duckworth, Professor E. L. V. Ebsworth, Mr N. J. de Fabeck Maunder, Mr B. A. Henman, Dr F. E. Parker, Mr J. R. Ruck Keene and Mr C. N. Thompson.

Mr R. Djanogly
Mr Raphael Djanogly was host at a luncheon given in honour of Miss Valerie Hobson at the Berkeley Hotel, London, SE1, yesterday. Others present were: Mr John Profumo, Mr David Profumo, Mr David Djanogly, Mr Miriam Djanogly, Mr David Cohen, Mr E. V. Cherubini, Mr and Mrs Ivor Spencer, Mr and Mrs Harry Secombe, Mr and Mrs Herbert Lom, Mr and Mrs David Webb, Mr and Mrs Robert Kennedy, Miss Elspet Gray, Brigadier and Mrs Michael Landy, Miss Anne Rogers-Collman, Captain J. A. R. Swainson, Mr and Mrs David Seymour, Mr John Goldstream, the Rev Simon and Mrs Rees, Mr Harvey Pike, Mr and Mrs Kenneth Lewis, Mr and Mrs Dewhurst-Lewis, Mrs Isabel Lewis, Miss Lyle Bennett, Miss Rosanna Bennett and Mr Sidney Vaunce.

Dinners

Air Force Board
Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, Chief of the Air Staff, and members of the Air Force Board were hosts at a dinner held at RAF Staff College, Bracknell, last night after the sixth Sir Sydney Camm memorial lecture. The guests included Mr P. A. Hearne, President of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and members of the society.

To His Honour E. Fay, QC
A dinner was held at the Inner Temple on February 20 to mark the retirement of His Honour Edgar Fay, QC, as an Official Referee of the Supreme Court. Among those present were: Judge William Stabb, QC, Judge Lewis Hawser, QC, and Judge John Newey, QC, and Official Referees, Mr Donald Keating, QC, Mr R. H. Duncan Wallace, QC, Mr Robert Gatehouse, QC, and Mr Desmond Wright, QC.

Dartmouth passing-out

Rear-Admiral P. G. M. Herbert, Director of General of Naval Manpower and Training, took the *salute at the passing-out parade* last Friday when the following officers under training passed out from Britannia Royal Naval College:

GENERAL LIST: Acting Sub-Lieutenants N. P. Britton, M. J. Wass, P. J. Whitby, C. N. Hall, P. Webb. SUPPLEMENTARY LIST: Acting Sub-Lieutenants A. J. Clegg, D. J. Lade, J. W. Crowther, A. P. Field, J. C. Coe, G. A. J. P. Knight, A. J. Flint, N. R. Copper, G. Hodson, A. J. Lamb, R. Price, M. Bentley, J. R. Stewart, P. D. Sharples. SUPPLEMENTARY LIST (AIR): Acting Sub-Lieutenants J. Alder, D. Chicken, G. Crowther, C. N. Hall, M. Curton, M. Watson, G. R. Shaw.
Midshipmen: J. J. Armstrong, G. Daly, D. J. Brown, J. Carriman, Edwards, D. Clark, J. P. Pearson, Howard, J. A. Millard, J. R. Davis, Newell, A. D. Peters, J. M. Gibbard, Wakefield, T. Vansell, P. Wilson, Cadigan, Chase, J. Holland, M. J. Gibson, A. Joyce, D. Thorley, A. R. Morrell, J. J. Pattison, G. Mumford, Sutcliffe, M. C. Woodford. Short Career Commission: Acting Sub-Lieutenants ..., Perkins, A. J. Watson, F. M. ..., Hibbert, D. J. H. Hume.

New Anglican view on remarriage emerging

By Clifford Longley,
Religious Affairs Correspondent

A new set of policies towards those who divorce and remarry began to emerge from the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday, with several small steps towards a less severe discipline. But the main controversy was deferred.

The issue of the remarriage of divorced persons in church was put back until the July meeting, in spite of the complaint that the synod was putting the cart before the hirse. Some of the decisions taken yesterday could be overtaken if the July meeting approved church remarriage, though the tenor of the debate did not make that seem probable.

The synod was in favour of ending the automatic exclusion from Holy Communion of those who married a second time, even though the existing rules allowed diocesan bishops to lift the exclusion at their discretion on request from the clergy concerned. It will remain the responsibility of the clergy not to give Communion to an individual in a case of scandal.

The synod also requested that an official form should be drawn up for the conduct of a service of prayer and dedication which would be available for use where a couple asked the church to bless their register office marriage.

Speakers insisted, however, that such a service should be designed so that it could not be confused with a proper marriage service. By a narrow majority the synod felt that such services should be private, explained by the Bishop of Durham, Dr John Habgood, as meaning by invitation rather than open to the general public.

The most significant relaxation concerned divorce clergymen and divorced candidates for ordination. The latter are at present automatically barred and the synod voted to give bishops the right to use their discretion in such cases.

Divorced clergymen may at present be refused institution to a new parish by the bishop, but the law is unclear and the synod was in favour of clarification. That would give the bishops the same sort of discretion as he would have over candidates for ordination.

In the general debate the synod heard conflicting pleas for compassion and forgiveness towards those whose marriages broke down, and for the maintenance of the church's traditional teaching that marriage was a lifelong commitment.

Members approved a proposal for a working party to review the provision of preparation for marriage, and for the support of marriages which were under threat. It also expressed the hope that means could be found to provide some form of preparation for marriage in the case of register office marriages.

A motion by the Bishop of Winchester, Dr John Taylor, that the rules should be altered to permit divorced persons to remarry in church with the permission of the bishop was adjourned until the summer to give further time for consideration.

Marriages

Mr O. Gilmour and the Hon Pulcheria Katia Grenfell
The marriage took place on February 23 between Mr Oliver Gilmour, second son of Sir Ian and Lady Caroline Gilmour, and the Hon Pulcheria Katia Grenfell, elder daughter of Lord and Lady St Just.

Mr P. Knights and Miss P. F. Isaac
The marriage took place at Holy Trinity Church, Exmouth, Devon, on February 21, between Mr Peter Knights, of Norfolk and Dubai, and Miss Patricia Frances Isaac. The bride was given in marriage by her father, Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Isaac.

Mr R. J. F. Westoll and Miss J. D. J. Capron
The marriage took place on Saturday at Chelsea Old Church between Mr Richard Westoll and Miss Juliet Capron. The Rev C. E. Leighton Thomson officiated.
The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Michaela Eyston, Nichola ffrench-Blake and Anthony Sykes. Mr Charles Seymour was best man.

Mr J. G. S. Young and Mrs J. A. Chadd
The marriage took place on February 18 between Mr John Young and Mrs Judy Chadd.

Receptions

HM Government
To mark the bicentenary of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, held a reception in 6 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, last night. Lord Lyell received the guests.

Lady Mayoress of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were hosts at a civic reception given yesterday evening at City Hall. The guests included the chairman of the GLC, members of the Diplomatic Corps, mayors of London boroughs, representatives in Westminster of the Armed Services, the arts, church, education, law, medicine and street associations, *and members and chief officers* of the city council and their ladies.

Institution of Production Engineers
Dr Howard Hicks, president of the Institution of Production Engineers, presided at a reception and Conversazione at Guildhall, yesterday evening given to mark the institution's diamond jubilee. During the evening Dr Hicks presented new institution medals to Mr H. J. Musgrove, Mr A. E. Everts; Dr H. Peter Jost and Mr F. G. Hawke.

Glaziers' Company
The Glaziers' Company gave a reception at Glaziers' Hall yesterday after their annual service in Southwark Cathedral. The tools of the craft were blessed by the Very Rev Dr Peter Moore, and an anthem, "Lucem Tuam Da Nobis Deus", dedicated to the Master, Mr J. P. S. Edge-Partington, and the Company by its composer, Dr William Cole, was performed for the first time.

Flying duties entry

The following successful candidates for flying duties entry to the Royal Navy entered the *Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth*, yesterday:

MEDIUM CAREER COMMISSION: Midshipmen S. M. Ellman (Bodmin Comp S. Cornwall), P. A. Lavery (Plymouth Poly), G. F. Long (Kimbolton S. Huntingdon), N. J. Roberts (RN Upper Yardman), D. Smith (Edinburgh Univ).
SHORT CAREER COMMISSION: Acting Sub-Lieutenants C. J. Dalby (Liverpool Univ), J. W. Cargill (Southampton Univ), P. P. Dann (Nottingham Univ), N. S. Fallon (Aberdeen Univ), E. D. P. Heslby (Aberdeen Univ), D. W. Howarth (Bristol Univ), P. B. Sadler (Manchester Univ), D. Sharples (Salford Univ), K. N. Weaver (East Anglia Univ), D. W. Symons (Leeds Univ).
Midshipmen: J. J. Ainsworth (Perth Tech C), R. B. Beresford (Hyde County GS, Cheshire), P. R. Brearley (RN Upper Yardman), T. J. Blofeld (Bedford Modern S), C. Brown (RN Upper Yardman), K. S. Brown (St Margaret's C of E HS, Aigburth, Liverpool), M. J. Burrows (Canford S, Wimborne, Dorset), T. A. De La Fosse (Mid-Warwickshire C of FE, Leamington Spa), M. J. L. Forsyth (Warwick S), D. C. Green (Arnold and Carlton C, Nottinghamshire), A. D. Gribbin (Alsager Comp S, Stoke-on-Trent), R. N. Leedham (RN Upper Yardman), G. D. Renton (Beanfield Comp S, Corby), S. W. Wilcox (Wellington C, Crowthorne, Berkshire).

Photograph by Brian Harris

Coins on test: Master John Ritchie, the Queen's Remembrancer, administering the oath for the United Kingdom coinage at the opening of the Trial of the Pyx at Goldsmiths' Hall, London, yesterday. The coins to be tested include the first gold proof sets to be issued since 1937.

MPs demand assurances on forest land sales

By John Winder
Parliamentary Staff

Labour MPs yesterday demanded firm assurances that funds raised by the sale of Forestry Commission land would be used to develop forestry, and objected when they did not get words to match what had been said by a minister in the Lords the night before.

On Monday evening Lord Mansfield, Minister of State for Scotland, had said that money raised by the sales "will not be lost to forestry" but would be recycled to the Forestry Commission.

Yesterday, in the standing committee in the Commons on the Forestry Bill, which allows sales of Forestry Commission assets, *Mr Jerry Wiggin, Parliamentary* Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that the money, if it was substantial, should certainly go in part to assist the taxpayer.

Mr Mark Hughes (Durham, Lab), leading for the Opposition, said they had had no assurance of the kind given to the Lords by Lord Mansfield. He also demanded an indication of how the recycling would be carried out.

Mr Dennis Canavan (Stirlingshire, West, Lab) said that without his amendment to restrict ministers' powers to transfer Forestry Commission funds to the Treasury, there would be a hole in the bottom of the commission's *bucket, and from the hole a pipe* connected to the Treasury.

Mr Wiggin said that if sales of land and profits on the sale of timber went beyond the sensible needs of the Forestry Commission, as decided by forestry ministers, *the money would of course be* transferred to the Consolidated Fund, the Government's general fund.

University news

Oxford
Elections:
WORCESTER COLLEGE: Martin Frederiksen fellowship in ancient history, A. W. Lintott, MA, PhD, senior lecturer in classics, Aberdeen University.
TRINITY COLLEGE: Exhibition, S. K. C. Clarey, formerly of Tonbridge School.

Newcastle
Appointments
Dr. F. K. Kong is appointed to the chair of structural engineering.
Dr C. J. Hull is appointed to the chair of anaesthesia and to the headship of the department of anaesthesia.
Senior lecturers: Dr P. Kendall-Taylor, Dr R. Lendrum, Dr M. H. Snow, Dr W. M. G. Tunbridge and Dr M. K. Ward (medicine); Dr S. P. Tryer (psychiatry).
Lecturers: Dr W. A. Barker (psychiatry), Mrs J. H. Nunn (child dental health), Miss L. J. Ralph (physical Education).

Grants
Multiple Sclerosis Society: £24,668 to Professor D. F. Roberts for research into the relationship between genetics and multiple sclerosis in North-east Scotland.
European Economic Community: £22,000 to Dr R. I. McCallum, for a study on the mortality of workers in chloromethyl ether factories.
Lucas Research Centre: £68,000 to Professor K. H. Jacks for the project entitled "nitrogen ceramics".

Sheffield
Honorary degrees are to be conferred on the following on July 17 and 18:
Litt D: Emeritus Professor Sir George Grenfell Baines, Miss Iris Murdoch and Sir Edgar Williams.
LL D: S. M. de Bartolome.
D Eng: W. G. Ibberson.
DSc: Dr H. Kay and Dr A. Spinks.
The following honorary degree will be awarded on a date to be arranged:
DSc Tech: S. Race.
An honorary degree of PhD has been conferred on Mr Derrick Riley, local amateur archaeologist.

£14,000 for Meissen tea service

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

German buying dominated Sotheby's sale of Continental porcelain and enamel yesterday, with an anonymous bidder paying £14,000 (estimate £7,000 to £9,000) for a Meissen "yellow ground" tea and coffee service comprising 43 pieces. Each piece is decorated with hand-painted landscape panels; they date from about 1744.

The London dealer, Winifred Williams, beat the German competition to pay £11,000 (estimate £7,000 to £8,000) for an outside decorated Meissen cream pot, just *over fiveinches* high and dating from the first half of the eighteenth century.

Much scholarly interest has concentrated in recent years on the individuals who took Meissen porcelain in the white and decorated it outside the factory; their histories are hard to disentangle.

This piece is thought to have been made at the Meissen factory about 1720 but decorated about 1740-45 in Bayreuth with a charming capriccio landscape in black and white which runs right round its body.

The same dealer was forced to pay £6,000 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000) for a rare Bayreuth coffee-pot and cover with a brown glaze and silver and gold decoration. An enamel snuff box signed by the renowned Meissen decorator, Christian Friedrich Herold, sold for a more modest £5,000 (estimate £4,000 to £6,000). The little box, with elaborate allegorical and armorial decoration, was probtbly made for the Elector of Saxony, Augustus III, King of Poland, and repeats themes found on mid-eighteenth-century medals.

The sale totalled £154,460 with 12 per cent unsold.

It was again German buying that secured the top price in Christie's glass sale, totalling £72,870, with 11 per cent unsold. H. Hübner, from Würzburg, paid the top price at £2,200 for a beaker dating from about 1824. It is decorated in enamels by Anton Kothgasser with a pattern of scattered playing cards, and appears to be a decorative protest against an unpopular Austrian state monopoly of the period; the sale of playing cards was a state monopoly and subject to taxation.

Christie's sale of prints and maps totalled £8,140, with 14 per cent unsold. The renowned set of topographical lithographs titled "London as it is", by Thomas Shotter Boys, 26 in all and published in 1842, brought the top price at £3,500 (estimate £3,500 to £4,500); the set is framed and not in the best condition. It was bought by London's Parker Gallery.

Run of 16 wins in bridge foursomes

By Our Bridge Correspondent

The holders, Keith Stanley's team, again won the Woolwich Building Society's Spring Foursomes at Eastbourne on Monday night. In a remarkable run of 16 winning matches over two years they have never had to come from behind.

In the final they had a surprisingly easy victory by 102-27 over P. Alder's team, four members of which will be representing Great Britain in the Common Market Bridge Championships in Birmingham in April, after leading by 25—8 at half time.

At Harrogate the northern holders, A. R. Forrester's team (R. Smolski, G. T. Kirby, J. M. Armstrong, R. Upton, W. Salisbury) triumphed by 84—42 over C. J. Luck's team (A. C. Williams, R. E. Mordue, C. P. Mellulsh). The northern and southern winners will play off at Brighton in August, when the southern team, *who won last year, will start as* slight favourites.

Semi-Final results: K. E. Stanley, E. W. Crowhurst, Miss N. Gardener, D. Bretherton, M. R. Pomfrey, D. F. Huggett beat R. O'Reilly, D. G. W. Price, U. M. Dourmoush, C. Duckworth by 81—35; P. Alder, D. Greenwood, B. Mervis, A. Calderwood, C. P. Dixon, V. Silverstone beat D. Rimington, R. J. Rowlands, P. Law, R. Paine, D. J. Fell, P. Fonn by 150—60.

The Woolwich Pairs Championship was played over two sessions on Monday for those players eliminated from the teams event.
Results: 1. Ceri Evans, Keith Loveys (London), 974; 2. W. J. Durden, P. J. Morgan (Surrey), 956; 3. I. Panto (Sussex), M. Wlodarczyk, (London), 951.

Science report

Pollution: Breaking carbon-chlorine bond

From Clive Cookson
of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*
Washington

Chlorinated hydrocarbons are an important class of industrial chemicals. Unfortunately, many of them are poisonous, and they do not break down in the environment, so their production, which runs into hundreds of millions of tons a year, has caused serious waste disposal difficulties.

However, two American researchers have discovered a simple chemical reaction that breaks the tenacious carbon-chlorine bond. They believe it could be the basis of a safe and inexpensive method of getting rid of chlorinated hydrocarbons in industrial wastes.

Such a process would be far superior to today's favourite disposal techniques: incineration, which is costly and polluting, and dump*ing in a landfill, which is* environmentally unacceptable in the long term.

Dr Donald Sawyer and Dr Julian Roberts, of the University of California, Riverside, report in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* that the "superoxide" ion, formed by adding an electron to an oxygen molecule, attacks chlorinated hydrocarbons very rapidly. The chlorine atoms are removed as harmless chloride ions and replaced by oxygen.

The overall effect is to convert a chlorinated hydrocarbon into an alcohol, aldehyde, acid or carbonate, depending on the number of chlorine atoms attached to each carbon atom. Those compounds are generally much less toxic than the starting material.

The reaction must be carried out *in an aprotic solvent, such as* Dimethyl sulphoxide, and in the absence of water. The easiest way of generating superoxide ions is to pass an electric current through the solution; that adds electrons to the dissolved molecules of *oxygen gas*...

Before Dr Sawyer and Dr Roberts, chemists had only investigated the effect of superoxide on hydrocarbons containing one chlorine atom. They found a reaction mechanism (nucleophilic substitution) which would have gone increasingly slowly in compounds that had two, three and four chlorines attached to a single carbon atom.

The Californian chemists made the surprising discovery that the reaction went most quickly with carbon tetrachloride and chloroform, which have four and three chlorines respectively. Evidently a different mechanism is at work here; they do not yet know what it is.

The University of California has applied for a patent on its *researchers' discovery, which* could be used on site to remove persistent chlorine-containing chemicals from industrial waste. (It would work equally well with the corresponding compounds of bromine and iodine, although these *are less widespread.)*

Only a simply electrochemical apparatus would be needed, according to Dr Sawyer, and it could be fitted into "a black box larger than a breadbox and smaller than a refrigerator."

The researchers maintain that the process will be cheaper and safer than incineration. "While it uses an electrical current, an expensive form of energy, this extremely efficient process would save the cost of transporting and concentrating these wastes", Dr Sawyer said. And removing chlorine may make it possible to recycle the remaining organic materials.

Source: *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (vol 103, p 712-714) 1981.



Lord Swann (centre) before his introduction in the Lords yesterday. His sponsors were Lord Aldington (left) and Lord Hill of Luton.

Latest wills

Mr George Howard Woodhall, of Selly Park, Birmingham, left estate valued at £114,561 net. He left £20,000 and a fourth of the residue to the British Homeopathic Association.
Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Oatley, Mrs Marianne Susan, of Tenbury, Worcestershire £432,438

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, Feb 24, 1956

Westminster, Thursday.—The House of Commons heard today with mixed feelings, *to put it* mildly, the Prime Minister's announcement of the Government's intentions in the light of the decision taken by the House on a free vote on Thursday last on the question of *capital* punishment. A deep silence fell on the crowded chamber as Sir Anthony Eden told it in a sentence or two that the Government had decided to find time for a second reading of the Death Penalty (Abolition) Bill which had already been introduced by Mr Sydney Silverman, Labour member for Nelson and Colne.

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR WALTER SIMON

Advances in the teaching of Chinese

Professor Walter Simon, CBE, FBA, who died on February 22, at the age of 87, was Emeritus Professor of Chinese in the University of London.

Ernst Julius Walter Simon was born in Berlin on June 10, 1893. He studied romance and classical philology at the university there from 1911 to 1914, and in 1919 entered the library profession. After a year or two at Kiel, he served until 1935 at his old university. Here he built up a parallel career as a Sinologist, studying under the late Otto Franke. From 1926 he was lecturer, and from 1932 to *1934* Extraordinary Professor of Chinese. He spent the year 1932-33 on exchange service with the National Library in Peking. Simon's return to Europe coincided with the rise of the Nazi party in Germany, and, like many others, he was penalized because of his origins. In 1934 his *venia legendi* was withdrawn, and in 1935 his library career was prematurely terminated. In 1936 he came to England with help from the Academic Assistance Council, and received academic hospitality at the University of London. From 1936 he was lecturer in Chinese at the School of Oriental and African Studies, from 1938, Reader, and from 1947 to 1960 he occupied a chair of Chinese.

As in other fields, Germany's self-inflicted losses in oriental studies proved Britain's gain, in both the short and long terms. After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbour, it was belatedly realised how desperately short we were of oriental experts. It was Simon who developed the Chinese side of an ambitious scheme for training hundreds of young men for intelligence work. He introduced into SOAS the use of the so-called *Gwoyeu Romatzyh*, or National Language Romanization, and on this script a whole generation of service students and undergraduates cut their teeth. Perhaps even more important than this temperary training scheme was the fact that Simon laid, with Germanic thoroughness, but a humane appreciation of the values of Chinese culture, the foundations of modern British sinology. Thanks to him, what was once the province of gifted, but ageing amateurs, is now a professional field of study.

In the years from 1950 to 1960, when he was at the head of the Department of the Far East at SOAS, Simon found time, happily, on his side. War service had illuminated for many young scholars the civilisations of the East, and the *Report* of the Scarborough Commission, generously implemented by a Treasury Committee, made rapid and balanced academic expansion possible. China was still open to visitors, and book-buying tours were possible. Simon made full use of these opportunities, and the present Department of the Far East at SOAS is his lasting monument.

Simon's own interests lay principally in the field of Sino-Tiberan philology. His first major contribution was his *Tibetisch-chinesische Wortgleichungen: ein Versuch*, and his last paper, published only a year or so ago, was entitled *Some Tibetan etymologies of semantic interest*. His many friends and pupils will remember him also for his unfailing kindness and for his strict but courteous honesty in everything he did.

He was elected to the British Academy in 1956, and appointed CBE in 1961.

He leaves a widow and two sons.

CAPTAIN LEONARD PLUGGE

Captain Leonard Frank Plugge, who died in California on February 19 at the age of 91, was Conservative member of Parliament for the Chatham division of Rochester from 1935 to 1945.

He was particularly interested in wireless and television and was a pioneer of commercial broadcasting in Europe. In 1925 he persuaded Selfridges to sponsor a fashion talk from the Eiffel Tower in Paris and three listeners in this country wrote *in to say that they had heard* the broadcast. A rather more ambitious venture was the formation of a private concern, the International Broadcasting Company in 1930. The following year IBC began arranging broadcasts from Radio Normandie, a name which will bring back memories to many older listeners. Radio Normandie was a 10kW station situated near Fécamp and its broadcasts were well received in large parts of southern England. Asa Briggs in *The Golden Age of Wireless* remarks that Plugge talked of Radio Normandie as a "thirteenth colony" which justified all the efforts of IBC and which had the backing of a number of big advertising agencies, some of them American; many of the programmes were of an American type such as "soap operas". In spite of strong pressure by the BBC to get succeeding French governments to control *commercial broadcasts* from France, Radio Normandie survived.

Plugge described himself as an inventor and not without justification. He devised an early form of *radio telephone* for cars and in his entry in *Who's Who* claimed to have invented television glasses and stereoscopic cinematograph.

Born on September 21, 1889, he was the only son of Frank Plugge, of Brighton, and educated at Dulwich and University College, London. He obtained his BSc degree in 1916, and at the University of Brussels was a graduated candidate Ingénieurs de Mines.

He served in the First World War, being commissioned sub-lieutenant RNVR in January 1917, and promoted lieutenant in December of the same year. In 1918 he was transferred to the RAF as a captain. He did research work at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, and Owens College, Manchester, in 1917, and at the RAF Establishment, Farnborough, in 1918, as well as at the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington. In 1918-19 he was with the Department of Scientific Research at the Air Ministry. He served on the Inter-allied Aeronautical Commission of Control in Berlin and in 1919-20 was aeronautical delegate at the Spa Conference. From 1923 until 1930 he was with the London Underground Railways group of companies.

At the general election of 1935 he was elected member of Parliament for the Chatham *division of Rochester.* The Labour opponent whom he defeated by 5,897 votes in a straight fight was none other than Hugh Gaitskell.

With the Second World War *rapidly approaching, Plugge's* scientific knowledge proved useful to the National Government and to the war-time Coalition which succeded it. From 1939 to 1943 he was Chairman of the Parliamentary Scientific Committee. He also served from 1937 to 1943 as honorary secretary of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

But he never seemed completely at home at Westminster. Perhaps he was too much of a "lone wolf". At all events, it soon became evident that the rough and tumble of political life was not his *métier*, and his defeat at Chatham by Mr Arthur in the national triumph of Labour at the 1945 general election must have been something of a relief to him. Once again he was able to devote his time to scientific research. He was Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur.

He married Gertrude Ann, daughter of Frederick Rowland. They had two sons and a daughter of whom one son survives. His daughter Mrs Gale Ann Benson died tragically. She lived in Trinidad and became involved with Michael X, the Black Power leader. In 1979 Stanley Abbot was hanged after being convicted of her murder. Abbot, together with Michael X and Edward Chadee, was found guilty of plotting and carrying out the murder. Michael X was executed for the murder of his cousin.

MR JOHN GWYNNE

Mr David McKenna writes:

John Gwynne, who died recently at the age of 75, was a man of high ideals, great determination and personal courage, with at the same time a warmth of character that secured the friendship of people of all ages.

His family, which came from Wales, and made their money in the 19th century by the manufacture of hydraulic pumps, settled towards the turn of the century in Sussex where John was brought up. Violet Gordon Woodhouse, that remarkable pioneer in the revival of the clavichord and harpsichord as living instruments in the performance of early music, was his father's sister.

After Eton and Christ Church, John qualified and practised as a solicitor in London up to the beginning of the Second World War. Joining the Army he saw service in France in the early stages, where he was wounded, and subsequently, back in England, worked with the late Peter Fleming in forming and training units in operations behind the enemy's lines.

Later, although distinctly on the old side, he completed his parachute training and joined the SOE as an active member. He took part in operations in Greece but was invalided home after contracting cerebral meningitis. His last military appointment was as Officer in Charge of Religious Affairs in the Control Commission of Germany. Always interested in the educational ideas of Kurt Hahn, he then became the first executive director of the successful Outward Bound movement, where these ideas could be put into practice.

He inherited from his aunt, Mrs Woodhouse, that most beautiful of Gloucestershire manor houses, Nether Lypiatt, together with her collection of early keyboard instruments, and was both enthusiastic and generous in encouraging young musicians by arranging concerts for them, particularly where early music was featured. He carried on this support in the Mill House at Quenington, to which he finally retired.

An intrepid rider to hounds and a skilful gardener, he loved the Gloucestershire countryside but never lost his intense intellectual curiosity which caused him to probe deeply into the religions and philosophies of other cultures. He would undertake by himself long expeditions abroad with no regard for personal comfort. But in spite of this austere side of his nature, he was devoted to his children and remained a most lively member of a wide circle of friends by whom he will be greatly missed.

He married Patricia, daughter of *Sir Clive Morrison-Bell, and* had a son and a daughter.

Shaikh Ahmad bin Rashid al-Mu'alla, ruler of Umm al Qaywayn, one of the emirates constituting the United Arab Emirates, for 52 years, died on February 21. He was believed to be in his seventies. His son, Shaikh Rashid bin Ahmed bin Rashid al Mualla, who had been deputizing for his ailing father for some years, succeeds him.

Stock Exchange Prices

Equities rally

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 9. Dealings End, Feb 27. § Contango Day, March 2. Settlement Day, March 9

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

MEDIUMS

LONGS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

C—E

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
111	35	ERF Hldgs	55	..	..	..	..
70	44	E Lancs Paper	49	..	6.8	14.0	2.1
95	65	E Mid A Press 'A'	68	-1	4.6	5.3	7.5
101	71	Eastern Prod	74	..	6.6	8.9	5.2
136	32	Edbro	44	-1	..b	..	2.8
68	56	Elec Hldgs	64	..	4.7	7.4	8.5
88	52½	EIS	86	+1	5.4	6.2	5.1
795	413	Electrocomps	668	+5	13.6	2.0	19.2
960	700	Electrolux 'B'	960	+73	58.1	6.0	10.1

F—H

I—L

M—N

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %
255	145	Man Ship Canal	158	+2	..	..
36	22	Mang Bronze	35	..	3.1	8.9
28	9½	Manor Nat	10½	..	..	..
100	67	Marchwiel	34	..	8.5	3.1
125	76	Marks & Spencer	125	+4	4.9	3.9
49	30½	Marley Ltd	41	● -½	3.2	7.8
28	14½	Marling Ind	15	..	1.3	8.5
37	33	Marshall T Lox	32	..	4.0	12.4
34	22	Do A	22	..	4.0	18.0

O—S

T—Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

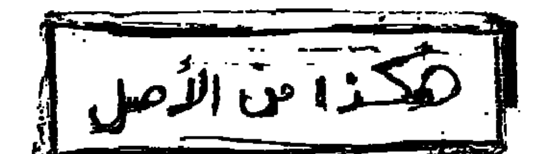
RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

RECENT ISSUES

RIGHTS ISSUES



THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

State industry and other governments, page 23

- **Stock markets**
  FT Ind 494.5 up 7.9
  FT Gilts 69.42 up 0.09
- **Sterling**
  $2.2340 down 115 points
  Index 99.5 down 0.9
- **Dollar**
  Index 99.8 up 0.3
  DM 2.1190 up 70 pts
- **Gold**
  $501.50 down $1
- **Money**
  3 mth sterling 12⅝-12½
  3 mth Euro $ 16⅜-16⅛
  6 mth Euro $ 16⅜-16⅛

Congress likely to reduce scale of Reagan budget proposals substantially

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Feb 24

The United States Congress will reduce the scale of President Reagan's proposed spending cuts and tax reductions substantially and it will complete work on the Budget by the end of July, according to Congressman James Jones, the new chairman of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives.

Mr Jones recently visited the United Kingdom and stated that British experiences clearly showed that large spending cuts must be made before cutting taxes.

The administration has not made its proposed tax reductions of $53,000m (£22,083m) contingent on its planned spending cuts of $41,400m. Mr Jones said that he had had detailed talks with Wall Street leaders and with Mr Paul Volker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and it was clear that if tax cuts came before action on spending the country would see chaos in financial markets with interest rates rising to record levels.

He would not be surprised if work on the tax Bill was completed before action was taken on the spending cuts, but he would strive to delay the sending of a tax reduction Bill to President Reagan for signing.

He was aiming to send a Bill covering all spending cuts to the President by mid-July and he hoped that the Congress would send the tax Bill to the White House two weeks later.

Under the law the budget committee has great power but recently this has been undermined. Mr Jones said: "This is clearly a make or break year for the budget process and I am confident it will work." To succeed he must have the support of chairmen of other powerful committees and it looks as if he may get this.

He suggested that President Reagan has asked for spending cuts greater than those actually needed to secure his economic goals. If Congress gave the President three-quarters of his desired cuts of about $30,000m, this would represent "an historic turnaround" for the United States. He guessed that Congress might approve cuts of as much as $25,000m.

He believed that tax cuts should be more specifically directed towards boosting savings and investment. He expected the President's proposals for cuts of as much as $10,000m, through changes in depreciation rules, to be approved, but that big changes might be made in the plan to cut all income taxes by 10 per cent. The final tax bill might amount to $18,000m less revenue than that of around $35,000m proposed by the White House.

The timing of budget moves could have important effects on expectations in financial markets. Mr Jones outlined his own timetable but said that it was ambitious.

His committee will receive the detailed 1982 fiscal year budget from the White House on March 10 and it will hold hearings on it throughout March. The committee will complete works on a resolution embracing all the key budget numbers, as well as drafting an omnibus Bill covering all spending sectors, by mid-April.

The resolution and the spending Bill will go to the floor of the House of Representatives, with a final budget resolution for the current fiscal year which ends on September 30, immediately after Easter. Discussions should be completed by mid-May. At that time each of the individual spending committees of the House will be instructed to make detailed plans swiftly for changes in present legislation to implement the new spending cuts, and this work should be finished by mid-June.

Mr Jones hoped that between mid-June and mid-July the spending Bill could be completed, with compromises reached by both houses of Congress and the final votes taken.

"Mine is a very ambitious schedule, but a very 'doable' one. The danger is that if we dither around beyond August the whole package may start to unravel," he said.

President Reagan was going to face a tough battle in Congress and he would have to exert a lot of pressure and do a lot of behind-the-scenes horse trading with members of the Congress. The President's proposals left room for compromise.

NatWest and CU profits cut back

By Our Financial Staff

After a series of profit setbacks in manufacturing industry, it was the turn of two large financial groups, National Westminster Bank and Commercial Union Assurance, to announce lower profits yesterday.

NatWest the second of the 'big four' banks to announce its 1980 figures, dashed most City expectations when it reported pretax profits down by £31m, from £441m to £410m.

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the chairman, gave warning that interest rates in Britain were likely to continue to fall this year, "and, together with subdued loan demand and increased operating costs, are likely to impact adversely on 1981 profits."

While the bank's international division reported better results with profits rising from £104m to £155m, NatWest was hit on the domestic front by rising costs and soaring bad debts. The contribution from home banking fell from £325m to £258m.

Bad debts for the group have risen from £40m to £120m, and the parent bank in Britain provision for bad debt rose from £19m to £55m. Staff costs overall have gone up by around 30 per cent.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton yesterday pointed out that, adjusted for inflation on a current cost accounting basis, profits for the year would have been down from £336m to £243m. He said that, in a period of high inflation, a large element of profits had to be set aside simply to maintain the level of working capital.

Like all clearing banks, NatWest has seen customers switching from non interest bearing current accounts to interest bearing deposit accounts. This has made the cost of funds more expensive to the bank.

Last year, while total deposits rose by some 18 per cent, current accounts increased by only 2 per cent, while seven day saving accounts went up by 37 per cent and deposits from the money markets rose by 24 per cent. The effect of that was to reduce the proportion of current accounts from 45 per cent to 39 per cent of total deposits.

Thanks to an increase in the leasing business from £363m to £492m, the tax charge remained low. For the group as a whole it was only 22 per cent.

Responding to threats of a windfall profits tax in the Budget, Mr Leigh-Pemberton said: "If ever there was a case for it, and I do not think there was, it was last year." He said it would "not be healthy when we'll need all the resources we'll be able to lay our hands on to help our customers".

Commercial Union yesterday announced a 25 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £103.2m for 1980.

The company is to raise premiums on its motor insurance policies from July 1. The increase, which follows a small rise in its motor losses last year to £2m, is likely to be less than the 18 per cent adjustment last July.

The group has already announced that house contents insurance is to go up by between 12 per cent and 18 per cent from March.

Commercial Union said that its underwriting account in this country had moved from a profit of £3.5m to a loss of £2.3m in the year.

Worldwide, the company made losses of £57.3m on its underwriting business, with the £31.8m lost in the United States by far the largest setback. Although Commercial Union's push into the United States has produced premium growth of 15 per cent, twice the industry average, the cost continues to be heavy especially in new computer systems. Expenses as a proportion of premium income rose to 34 per cent.

The group is expecting another difficult year in the United States in 1981, but thereafter expects costs to stabilize and profits to improve as premium income grows. Elsewhere Commercial Union continues to face difficult conditions in Canada and Western Europe.

Financial Editor, page 23

IN BRIEF

Mergers panel will discuss Lonrho bid

The Mergers Panel meets today to ask four government departments for their views on Lonrho's £158m takeover bid for the House of Fraser stores group, which owns Harrods and is fighting the bid.

After the meeting Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, will send his recommendations to Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, who will decide whether the takeover should be investigated by the Monopolies Commission.

Last July Mr John Nott, then Trade Secretary, said that the Government would take a tougher line on takeovers, particularly those which lacked obvious commercial logic and were aimed chiefly at boosting share earnings.

The OFT's recommendation and the Trade Secretary's decision are likely to be announced in the next few days. Next Wednesday Lonrho, with 29.99 per cent of Fraser, asks shareholders for approval of the deal under which it is free to buy Fraser's shares in the stock market.

Liquidations on rise

There was a 47 per cent increase in the amount of industrial floor space offered for sale or rent in the North-west during the second half of last year, reflecting factory closures and business liquidations, according to a survey by Edward Rushton Son and Kenyon the Manchester property agents.

Platinum refinery

Construction of a £15m platinum refinery at Royston, Hertfordshire, has been confirmed by Matthey Rustenburg Refiners, which claims to be the world's largest refiner of the platinum group metals.

Ferranti's new stake

Ferranti, the British electronics company, has acquired a minority shareholding in Vector General of Woodland Hills, California. The companies' common interest is in computer graphics and computer-aided design.

Cash for Nexos

The Government has authorized the National Enterprise Board to make available a further £25m tranche to Nexos, the board's office-automation subsidiary, in line with the company's three-year corporate plan. Initial NEB investment in Nexos was £15m.

Iran assets move

The Treasury has ordered American banks and other financial institutions to begin transferring $2,000m (about £900m) of Iranian assets in the United States to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

Unit trust sales

Unit trust sales in January of £63.9m were the second highest since April, 1978, and substantially up on the £48.4m recorded in December.

Wall Street up

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 0.87 point up at 945.10. The $-SDR was 1.233357. The £ was 0.549891.

Bank to free £1,300m of assets

By John Whitmore

The Bank of England quickly sold remaining supplies of its latest short-dated stock issue, Treasury 12 per cent 1986, yesterday and announced that it would cut temporarily the banks' minimum reserve asset ratio next week to cope with expected liquidity shortages.

The minimum reserve asset ratio for banks will come down from 10 per cent to 8 per cent from March 2 to March 10.

The move will release an additional £1,300m of liquidity into the banking system to deal with shortages expected to arise next week, mainly as a result of petroleum revenue tax payments.

The authorities stressed that the move was technical and gave no indication of general interest rate policy or of any imminent moves to do away with the present reserve asset system.

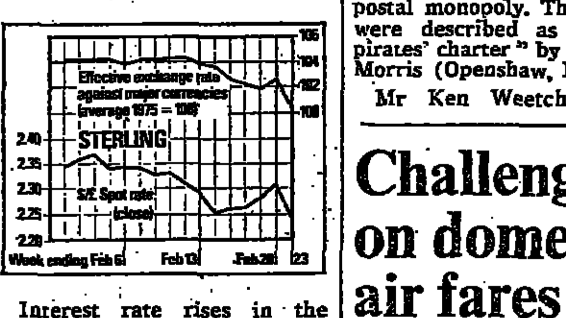
The rapid sell-out of the Treasury 1986 stock (at £20¼ per cent) came as a surprise because it had been thought that around half of the £1,000m issue was still in the government broker's hands.

After the exhaustion of supplies, short-dated stocks made little further progress. The market now expects a new stock to be announced on Friday. Mediums and longs scored gains of up to 50p.

In the money markets, period rates continued to fall away with three month interbank rate dropping as low as 12¼ per cent.

Pound hits 10-month low against dollar

The pound, dollar and Deutsche mark all moved violently in foreign exchange markets yesterday, the central feature of which was a remarkable morning rise in short-term Deutsche mark interest rates.



The pound started European trading about 1½ cents down from Monday's close as speculation on a large cut in minimum lending rate in the forthcoming Budget prompted further selling in the Far East. During the morning it rallied to $2.2490 before retreating to $2.2260, ending the day 115 points down on the previous day at a 10-month low of $2.2340.

Sterling closed 1¾ pfennigs lower against the Duetsche mark at DM4.7275, having fallen to DM4.69 during the day, but was up against the Swiss and French currencies. Its trade-weighted exchange rate index closed 0.9 down at 99.5.

The day's trading was, however, dominated by the dollar and Deutsche mark, in the wake of German interest rate moves. Short-term money market rates moved up smartly in the morning, with call money rates touching 23 per cent at one point.

Dealers said that some banks were scrambling for funds in the markets to fulfil minimum reserve requirements after February tax payments. In last Thursday's moves to tighten credit and boost the mark, the German Federal Bank suspended the regular Lombard lending facility at 9 per cent and called in the banks' outstanding Lombard debt.

Interest rate rises in the domestic money markets spilled over into the Euro-mark market. One-month deposits opened at 11 per cent and rose by an unprecedented 5 points to 16 per cent in late morning.

In the afternoon the Federal Bank acted to calm the markets by announcing that it would provide funds today for the first time under its new special Lombard facility at 12 per cent. Call-money rates then plunged to a little over 12 per cent while Euro-mark rates declined more sedately,

The dollar closed substantially lower against most currencies in New York partly in reaction to a 2.2 per cent decline in durable goods orders in January. The news prompted an easing in Eurodollar deposit rates, as it provided some reinforcement for the belief that American interest rates may decline further.

The dollar finished at 2.090 marks, well below yesterday's 2.1315/30.

Citibank followed other leading United States banks in cutting its prime rate to 19 from 19½ per cent.

Concession to Post Office on private delivery licensing

By Patricia Tisdall

The Government offered a concession to the Post Office over issuing licences to private postal carriers at the committee stage of the Telecommunications Bill yesterday.

An amendment to clause 65 (3) of the Bill, tabled by Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Industry and Information Technology and accepted by the committee, gives the option for payments for licences to be made to the Post Office instead of to the Secretary of State for Industry.

The Secretary of State retains wide powers both to issue licences and to suspend the postal monopoly. These powers were described as a "postal pirates' charter" by Mr Charles Morris (Openshaw, Lab).

Mr Ken Weetch (Ipswich, Lab) pointed out that prospective licence holders would apply only for profitable parts of the postal distribution network and that the Bill opened the way to "major privatization".

Other opposition MPs were worried about the absence of provision for an independent licensing authority for what they described as potential "state permits to make more money".

Mr Michael Marshall, Under Secretary of State for Industry, said that, although it was not spelled out in the Bill, it was the Government's intention to issue licences only where the Post Office's service was unsatisfactory, apart from three specific categories of users.

"The Government does not envisage that the powers will be used frequently", he said. "I have emphasized that in all cases there will be full consultation with the Post Office."

The three areas where licences will be issued are: the delivery of Christmas cards by charities; document exchanges; and time-sensitive or express mail.

Mr Marshall said that the first two categories would be covered by general licences. There was no question of large scale procedures being needed to deal with individuals.

Mr Marshall did not describe the criteria for express mail carriers, but Sir Keith Joseph has already said that this will depend on a premium fee being charged.

Parts of the postal network are highly profitable if taken in isolation. The amendment will give the Post Office the opportunity to recover lost revenue in the event of a private licensee being called in.

Brewers expecting 3pc fall in beer sales

By Edward Townsend

Britain's brewers, who have campaigned in recent months against any further increase in duty on drinks, have forecast that the 1981 beer market will fall by more than three per cent to 39.3 million bulk barrels.

In a statement issued just two weeks before the Budget, the Brewers' Society said yesterday that although an upturn in beer sales was expected next year, growth in demand would be between 1.5 per cent and 1.75 per cent a year until 1985.

The new forecast for 1981 is 5.1 million bulk barrels lower than the industry predicted a year ago. Last year's beer consumption was 40.7 million barrels, itself a drop of about 3.7 per cent on the previous year. Daily beer sales are now expected to be 31 million pints in 1981 compared with the previous estimate of 35m.

The society said: "High inflation and the continuing uncertainties of the severe recession are making it increasingly difficult to forecast the beer market with accuracy.

"On present evidence this year will be very flat unless there is a sudden upswing in economic activity or we have a super sunny summer."

Breweries are now operating well below their estimated capacity of about 60 million bulk barrels a year, and this has been exacerbated by new production units coming on stream in the last 12 months, notably those built by Courage and Whitbread.

After recently announced closures, particularly the Ansells brewery in Birmingham and the Courage unit at Southwark, London, industry observers expect further contraction this year.

Last week, the two main public house licensee organizations gave a warning to the Treasury that any increases in duty could lead to more public house closures.

The society said breweries would be concentrating upon improving tenanted and managed establishments to enable licensees to meet current problems.

Challenge on domestic air fares

By Arthur Reed

British Midland Airways has applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for permission to break the monopoly enjoyed by British Airways on shuttle air services between London and Glasgow and London and Edinburgh.

The airline, an independent group based at East Midlands airport, Derby, plans to offer a fare saving of £20 over the state airline. Its application is for a maximum of six flights each day in each direction from October, using DC 9 airliners.

Announcing the application in Glasgow yesterday, Mr Michael Bishop, chairman and managing director of British Midland, said: "We believe the time has come for an independent airline such as ours to be given access to the high-volume trunk routes

"We wish to offer a clear choice—the existing shuttle service, with its obvious shortcomings and relatively high fares, or a fully-bookable, cost-saving alternative, with a high standard of cabin service."

38 grants awarded for oil-to-coal conversions

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Grants have been awarded for the replacement of oil-fired equipment with coal-fired plant under 38 industrial schemes throughout the United Kingdom, Mr John Moore, a junior energy minister said yesterday.

If all these schemes were to go ahead 181 megawatts of coal burning capacity would be created using 80,000 tonnes of coal a year.

Grants made under the energy conservation scheme which ran from June 1978 to June 1980 would total £1.4m and the total capital costs would be £5.6m.

In answer to a parliamentary question, Mr Moore said that industrial interest in burning coal was now very high. The National Coal Board had informed the department that it had received more than 1,000 inquiries about conversions to coal, and replacement or extensions of coal burning plant. If all these inquiries were to result in action, coal consumption would be increased by about 5 million tonnes a year.

EEC officials have been holding talks with the Department of Industry this week about schemes to encourage British industry to change from oil to coal.

Soft loans are available from the EEC with interest at four per cent below market rates, but the Government has not yet decided whether to provide cover for exchange risks.

The coal board has been pressing the Government to provide help for conversion schemes and the demand has been taken up by the National Union of Mineworkers.

Increased industrial demand for coal would ease the problems of the recession and allow some of the production now going into stock to be used.

Elsewhere in Europe soft loans are provided for conversion schemes. France, for example, provides loans up to 25 per cent of the total capital cost.

But the decision on whether to provide exchange cover to make use of the EEC plan lies with the Treasury which has not so far been enthusiastic.

Accelerated spending urged for UK road-rail network

By Edward Townsend

Top union leaders and nationalized and private sector transport industries have taken the unprecedented step of joining forces to press the Government to increase spending on the country's road and rail network by more than 50 per cent.

In a submission to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, 10 organizations and unions, some of whom traditionally have been at loggerheads with each other, say they are collaborating to make clear "that we are concerned not simply with the comparative claims on resources of road and rail but with the fundamental need to maintain and develop the necessary infrastructure to enable rail and road to make the most of what each has to offer".

The submission says that Britain's transport investment of £1,200m a year is substantially less than six years ago. It calls for the trunk road programme to be accelerated and for an early start to be made on railway electrification. Failure to increase investment in transport was deterring economic recovery. "We see action in this area not only as supportive of national recovery but as a forerunner of it."

Signatories to the submission include Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail; Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Mr Terry Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers; Mr Ray Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen; and Mr Sidney Weighell, General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen.

The remainder are leaders of the British Road Federation, the Freight Transport Association, National Freight Company, Road Haulage Association and the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association.

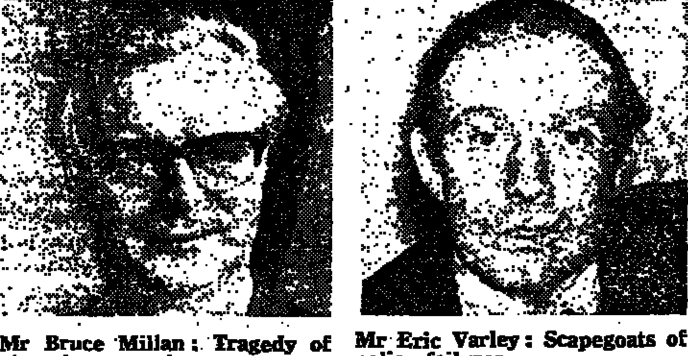
They have told Mr Fowler that as a proportion of gross domestic product, road and rail investment has fallen from 1.2 per cent in 1970 to its present level of 0.63 per cent. It is likely to fall further by 1983 to 0.58 per cent, representing expenditure of £1,100m.

And Britain lags behind the rest of Europe, says the submission. Compared with the United Kingdom, France has a motorway network just under twice the size and Germany just under three times the size. The United Kingdom has 2,309 miles of electrified train route (20.8 per cent of total route mileage) France has 5,955 (28.1 per cent) and Germany 6,588 (37.2 per cent).

The European Commission has proposed a £20,000m fund to eliminate transport bottlenecks in member states. "Many of the bottlenecks in the United Kingdom will remain for years because of the low level of resources devoted by the Government to the transport sector."

The document adds that decisions on the allocation of finance to ensure that a modern transport system is provided "must be taken with an appreciation of the essential differences between wealth creating investments in areas like transport infrastructure, which only central government can make, and spending money on services and consumption".

Signs of slowdown in jobless figures

Mr Bruce Millan: Tragedy of gigantic proportions.

Mr Eric Varley: Scapegoats of policy failures.

Continued from page 1

other recent months some encouragement might be drawn from the flows on and off the register.

The number joining the register has shown its first fall for many months, and the number leaving has reached its highest level for about two years.

But Whitehall is being cautious in interpreting these more encouraging signs. Even if the rate of increase in jobless slows down, it is widely expected that the overall total will continue to rise for much of this year and many economists now predict that the total number without work will reach three million.

At the present rate of increase, this level would be reached next winter. It would be equivalent to about 13 per cent of the labour force. Even at the depth of the slump in the 1930s unemployment never reached three million of the labour force.

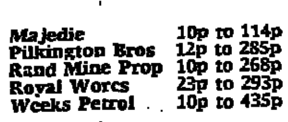
One disappointing aspect of the latest figures is the drop in vacancies after two small monthly increases. These had given rise to hopes that the slump in vacancies might be coming to an end, but the level is now so low that monthly changes do not provide any reliable guide to what is happening.

There are now fewer vacancies than at any time since figures were first kept. The Department of Employment estimates that there are probably only between 200,000 and 250,000 vacancies in the economy, or about one for every 10 people registered unemployed.

The number of unemployed school leavers fell between mid-January and mid-February by 12,000 to 90,000, but the level still jobless remains more than twice that of a year ago.

The biggest regional increases in unemployment in the latest month occurred in the West Midlands and Northern Ireland (where the percentage of the workforce out of work in now 16.1 per cent).

PRICE CHANGES



ises

La Rue	12p to 697p	Majedie	10p to 114p
ctrolux	73p to 960p	Pilkington Bros	12p to 285p
& Oil Acre	20p to 540p	Rand Mine Prop	10p to 268p
bal Nat Res	10p to 445p	Royal Worcs	23p to 293p
mo	12p to 644p	Weeks Petrol	10p to 435p

alls

echam Grp	8p to 167p	Marievale Con	10p to 194p
am Grp	7p to 110p	Midland	7p to 331p
icken Mines	6p to 174p	Minorco	7p to 623p
tlefield	5p to 490p	Nurdin & Peacck	7p to 228p
sky Oil	15p to 620p	Vlakfontein	5p to 240p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
stralia $	1.98	1.90
stria Sch	35.35	33.15
lgium Fr	81.00	77.00
nada $	2.74	2.65
nmark Kr	15.30	14.50
nland Mkk	9.56	9.06
ance Fr	11.44	10.94
rmany DM	4.96	4.68
eece Dr	116.00	110.00
ongkong $	12.20	11.60
eland Pt	1.33	1.27
aly Lir	2360.00	2250.00
pan Yn	490.00	464.00
therlands Gld	5.40	5.14
Norway Kr	12.50	11.85
Portugal Esc	129.00	123.00
South Africa Rd	2.10	1.96
Spain Pta	198.00	189.00
Sweden Kr	10.71	10.16
Switzerland Fr	4.46	4.23
USA $	2.29	2.22
Yugoslavia Dnr	84.00	78.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Lucas and Chloride get together in £10m project with government aid

Push ahead for electric vehicles technology

Mr Robert Dale

A £10m programme merging the expertise of Lucas Industries and the Chloride Group to advance the sale of electric vehicle components and systems has been launched.

Spread over five years and half financed by the Government it will be spearheaded by a new joint venture company called Lucas Chloride EV Systems.

The new company will be based at Lucas' existing Birmingham premises under the direction of Mr Robert Dale, general manager of Lucas Batteries, who will become the new company's executive chairman.

The partners contribution will be £1m a year for the next five years. By the end of this period the venture expects to be producing electrical components and systems for electric vehicles in substantial quantities.

But its primary target is to sell expertise to existing motor manufacturers at home and abroad.

The commercial vehicle market would receive the immediate attention, but once the technology is available the ordinary car market will be developed.

The company will not become involed in the "milk float or fork lift truck" market.

Between them to date Lucas and Chloride have provided the electrics for commercial vehicles made by Vauxhall, Talbot, BL and Ford.

Although the expertise of the parent companies of Lucas and Chloride can be made available to the new company, it is the intention that all research and development will be paid independently from the £10m budget.

Initially few extra jobs will be created, but the venture shows such promise that if successful the potential for production jobs will be excellent.

Forming the joint company will involve some rationalization of the research and development programmes being followed independently by Chloride and Lucas.

The venture will research, develop and market electrical systems that will be capable—according to the partners—of competing with their petrol and diesel counterparts in performance and cost.

Bill Johnstone



Soviet credit for pipeline reassessed by Germans

A consortium of more than 25 West German banks met in Frankfurt to reassess terms of a proposed 10,000 million Deutsche mark (about £2,050m) credit to finance a pipeline in the Soviet Union.

Some banks are growing increasingly nervous about the offer presented to a Soviet delegation at the end of January, after the steep rise in West German interest rates.

They have expressed reservations about refinancing a 10 year loan at a rate believed to be 9½ per cent now that long term domestic bond yields have risen to 10.3 per cent.

Deutsche Bank, which is heading the consortium, said it doubted that the meeting would lead to a conclusion about the credit.

Polish economy talks

A Polish deputy premier and planning commission chief have begun talks with West German officials as the Communist country's western creditors considered easing its debt burden. The talks centred on Poland's economic situation, including plans by the European Economic Community to provide meat and other foodstuffs.

Hongkong exports

Despite strenuous efforts by the Trade Development Council and other business organizations, exports of Hongkong-made products to Japan last year fell 12 per cent from a year earlier to HK$2,330m (£195m) after jumping 43 per cent in 1979. Last year's drop in exports helped to push the trade balance in Japan's favour to HK$21,000m.

Australian car tariffs

Australia's car and components industries could be eliminated, with the loss of tens of thousands of jobs, if the government accepts proposals for the abolition of tariff protection after 1984 the industry leaders claim. Borg-Warner said it could not survive such a move and Nissan of Japan said a decision would affect its plans to invest £890m in Australia.

Turkish visit to Bonn

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish deputy prime minister, was unable to travel to Bonn yesterday, because of bad weather, for talks with Herr Hans Matthöfer, the West German finance minister, on a new Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development credit package for Turkey.

Indian economy

Indian gross national product is expected to grow 6.5 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 31 after a decline of 4.5 per cent in 1980, according to the Asian Wall Street Journal. The survey said that 1982 ought to see a further improvement in agricultural and industrial output.

Belgian recession

The Belgian economics ministry has said that the recession appears to be bottoming out and has predicted that the country's low inflation rate will be maintained in 1981. But it gave a warning that unemployment would surge to 400,000 this year.

German money supply

The West German broadly defined money supply (M3) grew at a seasonally adjusted projected annual 8.4 per cent in January, up from a 7.1 per cent projected growth rate in December and a 3.9 per cent rate in January, 1980.

Japan sued

A Hongkong investment group, Newpis Hongkong, has sued the Japanese Government for restricting the purchase of shares of Katakura Industries, Japan's top silk spinner, officials said. The suit has been filed in the Tokyo district court.

Canada concern

Canada has told Mr Saburo Okita, Japan's special trade representative, that it is concerned about the imbalance in the domestic car market created by Japanese imports, Mr Mark Macguigan, external affairs minister, said.

BL compensation

Compensation terms have been agreed for the 2,000 workers made redundant at BL's plant at Seneffe, Belgium. It guarantees them between 90 and 95 per cent of their salaries for the first year, plus a lump sum of £1,250.

Taiwan's US mission

Taiwan will send its sixth procurement mission to the United States next month to buy $1,200m (about £530m) worth of goods, including coal and energy exploration equipment.

Denmark trade deficit

Denmark's balance of trade deficit narrowed to 1,020m kroner (about £70m) in January from 1,370m kroner in December and 2,230m kroner in January last year.

MPs and directors put on pressure for retrospective legislation

Shipyards after more compensation

The Government is facing renewed pressure to increase substantially the level of compensation paid to the former owners of Britain's three principal warship building yards. And yesterday Vickers, Vosper and Yarrow intensified their campaign with the help of the Institute of Directors and an impressive array of Conservative backbenchers.

The three companies, whose assets were nationalized three and a half years ago as a result of the Labour Government's Aerospace and Shipbuilding Act, have so far received £25.3m but are demanding substantially more.

Over the past few months the pressure for the Government to introduce retrospective legislation to amend the compensation terms has built up, although attempts by Conservative backbenchers to force the Government's hand have so far failed. But Mr Geoffrey Rippon, Conservative MP for Hexham, gave a warning yesterday that "this issue is not going to be allowed to die away".

Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of the Institute of Directors, said at a press conference in London: "Our concern is that a Conservative government is in danger of surrendering large and important hostages to fortune which will return to haunt it if another socialist government is elected."

The three shipbuilding companies are in varous stages of presenting their cases in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Decisions on whether the cases go forward for hearing are expected to be announced over the next few months.

Mr Rippon and other government backbenchers reaffirmed their intention to keep up continued pressure on the Government. At the end of last month Mr Rippon introduced a private members' Bill which was "talked out" but he maintained yesterday that whatever objection there might be to retrospective legislation, there was no constitutional obstacle.

Since then, an early day motion has been put down and has so far attracted 125 signatories, reflecting the bulk of Tory backbenchers, supported by some Liberal MPs. The Conservative backbenchers together fith Liberal MPs are urging the Government to give a second reading to a Bill of Rights which has already been substantially debated in the House of Lords.

Attacking the Government for failing to amend the "confiscatory formula" nature of the terms of the original compensation, he said that he could find no example among the Government or its supporters of a serious attempt to challenge the unfair nature of the compensation so far offered and paid to the nationalized companies.

Mr Goldsmith said that the Government had so far resisted pressure to introduce retrospective legislation to correct the basis of the compensation formula, and he added that such legislation was appropriate in the case of the three former owners of the yards.

But the institute and Conservative backbenchers see a dangerous precedent for a future government hostile to free enterprise in the Government's reluctance to move forward with retrospective legislation.

Mr Goldsmith said that the Labour Party's draft manifesto promised further nationalization and the restoration to public ownership of any public sector interests which had been sold off by the present government. The consequences for the entire private sector of the British economy if the Government failed to amend the shipbuilding compensation formula, would be "awesome".

He added: "Unless it reverses its failure to act in the naval shipbuilders' case, it will have set a clear precedent for confiscatory seizures of the assets of companies, and—which is worse—committed itself to fail to remedy the injustice if reelected. Mr Goldsmith said that he had written to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, inviting him to reopen this most disturbing case."

Peter Hill



An artist's impression of the shuttle system which will link Birmingham's new airport with its railway station and exhibition centre.

Britain to build first commercial wheelless passenger system

By Clifford Webb
Midland Industrial Correspondent

Britain has stolen a march on Japanese, German and American rivals competing in the £100m market for advanced passenger transit systems at airports, harbours, city centres and exhibition complexes.

Agreements were signed in Birmingham yesterday which will give this country the first fully automated, wheelless transit shuttle in commercial use.

The shuttle, costing £2.8m will link Birmingham's new £45m airport terminal with the National Exhibition Centre and Birmingham International railway station. It will carry 270,000 passengers a year.

British Rail developed the shuttle's magnetic suspension system, known as Maglev, with a government contract more than six years ago. Using linear motor propulsion and riding on a magnetic field, it was originally seen as a replacement for conventional trains.

There were technical limitations with high speed applications, however, which did not offer worthwhile advantages over conventional wheeled systems. But for short distances such as the 700 metres envisaged at Birmingham, there are obvious gains.

The system can be fully automatic, with driverless cars making the 90-second journey at timed intervals or operating in response to passenger call buttons.

Birmingham will have three cars each capable of carrying 30 seated or 48 standing passengers. Cars will be in telephone communication with each other and a control centre. The whole system will be monitored by closed circuit television, and will require only one or two operating staff.

BR claims that maintenance costs will be 75 per cent less than wheeled systems. Construction will start in three months' time, with commissioning in 1983 to permit a one-year running-in period before the new airport terminal is completed in 1984.

The project is being jointly undertaken by the West Midlands County Council and the People Mover Group (PMG), a consortium comprising Balfour Beatty Power Construction, GEC, Metro-Cammell and BR, which has been formed to exploit the Maglev development.

The county council is putting up £980,000; PMG £557,000; Department of Transport £500,000; Department of Industry £250,000 and British Rail £480,000.

Computer aid for investors

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

A computer-based method of putting those with inventions or ideas and those with the resources to exploit them in touch with each other was announced in London yesterday. Ideas and Resource Exchange (IREX), has been formed to provide the service which is claimed to be the first of its kind in the world.

For a minimum annual fee of £46, individuals and organizations can become "exchange members" of the scheme, which entitles them to file brief descriptions of ideas, available skills and/or spare capacity on the system.

The other type of participant is that of "subscriber members", who for a minimum annual fee of £92 receive all the ideas, skills and capacities on file in five selected categories. Subscriber members will receive this information in the form of a monthly printout from the computer system.

Mr Edward Brech, chairman of IREX, said yesterday that on conservative estimates, it was expected that up to 3,000 members would be registered within the first year.

The nucleus of an IREX membership already existed in about 2,000 contacts which Mr Christopher Coles and Mr Michael Bretherton, who are among the founder-directors of IREX, had assembled in their earlier work on the exchange of ideas and of resources.

Sir Alexander Smith, director of Manchester Polytechnic, former head of advanced research for Rolls-Royce and one of the directors of IREX, said yesterday that the new company provided "a nursery, a clearing house, a marketplace, where the sellers and the buyers are people with ideas and people with resources".

IREX would bring the two together—but would not try to determine the outcome of the meetings or of any subsequent transactions.

Mr Brech added that the company had been financed by about 40 individual investors.

Commitment to coal industry reaffirmed

By Nicholas Hirst

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday strongly reaffirmed the Government's commitment to building up the coal industry.

He said that the 15,000 megawatt nuclear programme announced 14 months ago, which was attacked last week by an all-party select committee of MPs, should make a useful contribution to Britain's energy requirements in the 1990s and beyond.

Mr Howell said he was confident that the coal industry could deal sensibly with the problems created by the recession. "These short term difficulties, however, should not be confused with the longer term prospects which we believe augur well for the coal industry as a whole", he told the British Institute of Management.

"It is and always has been our desire to see a future coal industry which is strong, efficient and competitive".

The coal board had invested about £800m this year to equip the industry to meet requirements in the future when oil could become scarcer and demand for coal increase.

High levels of job losses still continuing

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

There is still no sign of any easing of redundancy levels. About 45,000 more people are expected to be out of work because of redundancy in January; about the same number as in December, continuing the abnormally high level recorded since the summer, according to the Department of Employment estimates.

The January total is nearly double that of the same month a year ago. The main industries affected during the month are iron and steel, other metal goods, textiles, construction and distribution. Together, these are estimated to have accounted for 37 per cent of the total.

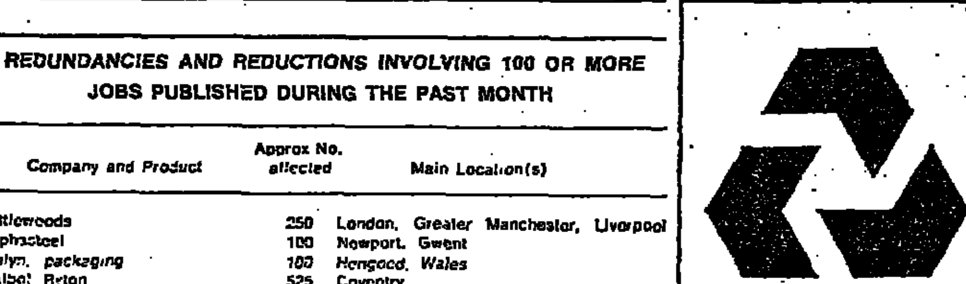
Forward indicators also give no ground for any optimism that a drop in redundancy levels is in sight. The number of jobs supported by the Government's temporary short-time working compensation scheme, which encourages employers to introduce short-time working rather than cut jobs, increased from 595,000 at the end of December to 680,000 at the end of last month.

The scheme only subsidizes jobs for a limited period which was increased last November from six to nine months. Once the time limit runs out, many of the jobs under the scheme become vulnerable to redundancy.

Looking farther ahead, the announcements of redundancies and job losses giving early warning of company intentions to reduce jobs also shows no signs of abating.

Among the biggest casualties announced during the month was the decision by Talbot UK to close its Linwood car plant which could involve the loss of 4,800 jobs.

This will not happen until June so the effects will not show up in official redundancy totals until the middle of the year.



REDUNDANCIES AND REDUCTIONS INVOLVING 100 OR MORE JOBS PUBLISHED DURING THE PAST MONTH

Company and Product	Approx No. affected	Main Location(s)
Littlewoods	250	London, Greater Manchester, Liverpool
Alphasteel	100	Newport, Gwent
Delyn, packaging	100	Hengoed, Wales
Talbot Ryton	525	Coventry
BL Land-Rover	400	Solihull
Triplex (Pilkington Glass)	600	Birmingham, St Helens
Rolls-Royce	2,000	
Standard Telephones & Cables	400	N Ireland
BTP Tioxide	350	Billingham
Sunblest Bakery	300	Near Wolverhampton
PX Nuclear Engineering	240	Belfast
BL Mini-Allegro kit packaging	225	Cowley
Vulcan Locomotive Works	125	Newton le Willows
Eclipse tools (James Neill Group)	100	Sheffield
GKN Sankey	1,240	Telford, Bilston
Seddon Atkinson (International Harvestors US)	810	Preston, Oldham
Midland Red Bus Company	450	Birmingham
Carrington Viyella, knitwear	400	Nottingham, Sudbury, Earlshilton, Leics
Newton Transmission axle plant	400	Devon
Wellworthy Engineering	360	Lymington, Weymouth
Smith-Corona, typewriters	230	W Bromwich, Glasgow
McCorquodale, specialist printing	128	Newton le Willows
BSC Coking Ovens	360	Brookhouse, near Rotherham
Tootal, textiles	225	Longton, Stoke on Trent
Jersey Capwood textile mill	200	Nottingham
GKN Screws and Fasteners	325	Smethwick
Ansells (Allied Breweries)	600	Aston Cross, Birmingham
Ingersoll Rand Company	450	Trafford Park, Manchester
Talbot UK	4,800	Linwood, Near Glasgow
Rolls-Royce Industrial & Marine division	460	Ansty, Coventry
Rolls-Royce Motors	350	Crewe
BSC	430	Workington, Cumbria
British Airways	2,500	
Lincolnshire school dinner workers	1,500	
British Sugar Corporation	750	Nottingham, Selby, Ely, Felstead
Times Newspapers	563	
Dickinson Robinson, stationery	320	Hemel Hempstead
Shell tanker drivers & distribution workers	250	
Lucas Diesel Engines	200	Gloucester
British Aero components	200	Warwick
Smith Meters	200	London
Buxted Poultry	180	Mansfield, Notts
Shelvoke and Drewry, specialist vehicle maker	150	Letchworth, Herts
BonserEngineering, fork-lift trucks	150	Giltbrook, Nottingham
HP Bulmer, cidermaker	130	Hereford
Powys County Council	115	
Kearney & Trecker Marwin machine tools	110	Brighton
Warrington Country Council	110	
Lee Group	100	Sheffield
Monks Hall steel	100	Warrington
Doncaster County Council (school meals)	100	
Jacobs Manufacturing	100	Sheffield
Firth Brown, steel	1,250	Sheffield
Lucas Girling, brakes	700	Bromborough, Merseyside
Metal Box	700	Aintree Carlisle Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, 4 in London, 2 in Hull.
Kraft Foods	370	Kirkby, near Liverpool
London Brick	1,100	Ridgmont, Beds
Laporte Industries	500	Stallingborough, Humberside
British Van Heusen (Carrington Viyella)	190	Taunton
Benham Catering	180	South London
Nottingham County Council	160	
Tates (Tate & Lyle)	120	Knowsley, Liverpool
Dunlop	124	Newcastle, Cramlington
Fashion Industries	100	Hartlepool, Cleveland
Courtaulds	1,900	Liverpool, N Ireland
Duport	1,200	South Wales
Tootal	220	Preston, Lancs

Source: The Times, The Sunday Times, The Financial Times, Jan 29-Feb 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Monetary policy and sterling

From Professor G. W. Maynard

Sir, Two interconnected arguments seem to be circulating in the City, both of which, strangely enough if press reports are to be believed, have received the support of the Prime Minister's personal economic adviser. The first is that the tightness or otherwise of monetary policy is best judged by the behaviour of the monetary base, which has increased very little over the last 12 months, rather than by sterling M3 which has increased a lot. The second is that the strength of sterling has little or nothing to do with North Sea oil, but is simply due to high real rates of interest in the United Kingdom. Both arguments must surely be wrong.

As for the first argument, if by monetary base is meant bankers' deposits at the Bank of England plus notes and coin in circulation, then changes in this variable have very little significance for overall monetary tightness or ease. Only the United Kingdom clearing banks have the obligation to keep deposits at the Bank of England, there being no requirement on other banks to do so.

This is far from a trivial point since London clearing bank deposits are less than half the total deposit liabilities of the United Kingdom banking sector. Moreover, whereas in the case of the clearing banks, sterling deposit liabilities rose by about 12 per cent in the course of 1980 and their advances to public and private sectors plus holdings of gilts by about 23 per cent, in the case of the non-clearing banks the former rose by 22 per cent and the latter by almost 30 per cent. The non-clearing banks (ie, largely the overseas banks) financed more than half of the increase in their lending to United Kingdom public and private sectors with a greater than 50 per cent increase in their overseas held sterling deposits. Money may have been tight in the United Kingdom but little support for that contention can be drawn from the behaviour of the so called monetary base.

As far as the real interest-exchange rate argument is concerned, it should be noted that sterling's exchange rate began to rise strongly at a time when real interest rates in the United Kingdom were, if anything, negative rather than positive—ie, in the early months of 1980. Real interest rates did rise during the year, particularly in the second half, but this was not because nominal interest rates rose but because the rate of inflation fell; and this was surely helped by the earlier rise in the exchange rate. The existence of North Sea oil and the rise in oil prices in the course of 1979 can hardly be left out of this. Indeed, as far as monetary policy is concerned, the behaviour of overseas held sterling deposits mentioned above would suggest that far from contributing to the strength of the exchange rate, it operated to hold it down.

It will be ironic (although some might think welcome) if misunderstanding of what has been happening in the United Kingdom money and exchange markets causes a reputedly hard line monetarist adviser to recommend substantial easing of monetary policy. No doubt a substantial easing of fiscal and monetary policy aimed at rapid reversal of the unemployment situation would lead to a significantly lower *nominal* exchange rate. What is less certain is that it will lead to a significantly lower *real* exchange rate, at any rate for more than a very limited period of time.

Yours faithfully,
G. MAYNARD,
Department of Economics,
Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights,
Reading RG6 2AA.

Progress through unity

From Mr D. G. Layton

Sir, I wish strongly to support the plea for unity by Mr John Wedgwood (chairman, Southern Electricity) which appeared at the head of the Business News Letters columns on February 20. Mr Wedgwood pleaded, cogently, for an end to the division between those employed in the public and private sectors, and "for a sense of joint purpose and mutual understanding between both sectors in seeking those improvements in performance across the field which are essential to the nation's recovery". How right he is.

At the head of these same columns on December 11, you were kind enough to print a letter from me (under an almost identical heading) which pleaded for a different kind of unity. I argued that our economic difficulties were due, in equal measures, to the shortcomings (past and present) of Governments (Conservative and Labour), trade unions and management. I ended by saying that "the only hope is for Government, management and labour to get together in a united and determined effort to improve United Kingdom industry's competitiveness in a period of almost unprecedented international (not merely national) slump".

Everything I have seen since then reinforces my own and Mr Wedgwood's views. It is particularly sad that the National Economic Development Council, which was very sensibly set up to facilitate a civilized exchange of views between government, management and labour with the object of formulating an agreed and viable national plan for recovery and prosperity, has become, instead, a battleground for the expression of entrenched and dogmatic views.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. LAYTON,
33 Cranbourne Avenue,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN20 7TS.
February 20.

Business names

From Mr Richard Thomas

Sir, May I clarify two points in your report (February 20) on the National Consumer Council's call upon the Government to strengthen the provisions of the Companies Bill dealing with disclosure of business names?

We have pointed out that the Bill does not impose any time limit on written disclosure of identity by the trader where a request has been made. We have proposed a 21-day limit. The Bill does not impose any time limitations on consumers. We have also suggested a statutory right to inspect the information which will have to be displayed in business premises.

As your report made clear, the various changes which we have proposed would, in our view, only be second best to retention and improvement of the Registry of Business Names.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD THOMAS,
Legal Officer,
National Consumer Council,
18 Queen Anne's Gate,
London SW1H 9AA.

Acid test for CCA accounting

From Mr T. K. Gribbin

Sir, Mr G. Wilson's letter on CCA accounting (February 16) was timely, particularly his restrained remarks about the United Kingdom lack of interest in LIFO (last in first out).

The matter of replacement cost accounting is more pressing than he implies. I have been an ardent supporter of current cost accounting for many years. Further I have tried to operate such a system within a large international company. My experience tells me that, alas, SSAP 16 is doomed to wither away under the assault of rude practicality.

The acid test in the next three years will be within the realm of management accounts. After all, only if it is found to be useful in running a business will any accounting system really be embraced by operational management.

There are two crucial management points which have to be faced:

a) can SSAP 16 be adapted for short-term, internal reporting—ie, for monthly profits—and
b) will the CCA results produced under SSAP 16 appropriately reflect commercial conduct?

In industries where raw material stocks are important and where prices fluctuate SSAP 16 fails both tests. For short-term reporting the cost of sales adjustment can easily swap the underlying profit movement. The result is confusion and potential loss of control. For longer term movements, as at present formulated, the SSAP 16 COSA can readily remove the benefits of previous good buying and could quite easily fail to penalize bad buying. Consequently it is wide open to manipulation.

All this makes it more urgent that attention is devoted to feasible alternatives such as LIFO.

There is an amazing lack of interest among United Kingdom accountants. After all, it is widely used in the United States and seems to work well.

This freeze on intellectual curiosity is directly attributable to the lack of response from the Inland Revenue. If it would indicate that it is willing to undertake a serious study, with interested parties, on the practicability of using LIFO for taxing company profits this would transform the current debate. It would unblock the present intellectual log jam.

Yours faithfully,
T. K. GRIBBIN,
38 The Ridgeway,
London, NW11.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Nat West as an income stock

Sliding profits and sharply better dividends are driving bank shares into the income stock category. National Westminster Bank yesterday followed the precedent set by Lloyds Bank last week and raised its total dividend payments by 20 per cent.

Barclays is likely to follow suit but there is some doubt that Midland Bank will maintain the pattern because it is affected more than most by the quickly deteriorating banking scene.

The small fall in Natwest's profits before tax from £441m to £410m conceals the divergent experience within the business. The figures, slightly less than the more pessimistic market estimates, include a large fall in the domestic contribution in spite of a rising volume of deposits. Domestic banking last year made only £258m as against £325m in 1979.

Sterling deposits rose by 18 per cent overall but within that total current accounts went up by only 2 per cent while 7-day deposit accounts and wholesale deposits rose respectively by 37 and 24 per cent.

The net effect of that is that current accounts only represent 39 per cent of total deposits compared to 45 per cent a year ago. In addition to higher funding costs the two main other components of costs have been staff costs which are up by over 30 per cent and bad debts which in the United Kingdom are up from £19m to £86m.

While business was bad on domestic banking a strong performance on leasing has helped Lombard North Central, the wholly owned finance subsidiary to withstand some of the worse pressures on the business.

More important even is that the value of equipment bought for leasing from £363m to £492m has certainly helped the actual tax paid stay low at only 22 per cent of the total.

Things were distinctly brighter internationally though not quite as good in the second half as in the first when some extraordinary profits occurred.

Even though the National Bank of North America—which made last year $12m on a $300m investment—continues to be disappointing the international business contribution to the total has risen from 22 per cent to 35 per cent and remains one of the better hopes for 1981.

The outlook for this year seems poor. Bad debts could start falling especially in the second half, but this is unlikely to offset the impact of lower interest rates and a fall in demand for loans. During the year, as rates fall, Natwest will probably follow precedent and widen margins on lending, but even this—with current accounts costing around 9 per cent to run—will not prevent a downturn.

But the shares at 360p now yield nearly [illegible] per cent and despite an unrealistically taxed p/e ratio a shade above 4 are attractive on income grounds, though there is no point in buying this side of what could be *a difficult Budget for the clearers.*

Commercial Union

Still on the down cycle

Composite insurance shares have been reflecting growing concern that the underwriting cycle this time round is going to be longer and deeper than in previous downturns, with the sector falling in recent weeks close to an historic low relative to the market.

Yesterday Commercial Union got the reporting season off to a nervous start with fourth quarter pretax profits more than two-fifths lower at £21.5m, a marked deterioration on the poor results of the previous period, implying that the cycle's trough is still some way off.

With its 40 per cent exposure to the highly competitive United States market, CU's experience could be rather worse than other composites with an underwriting loss perhaps £35-40m higher in 1981 than last year's £57.3m.

Even with sterling's strength lopping £7m off the total, full year pretax profits down from £137.6m to £103.2m were worse than the nine-months indication. The £2m drop to *£151.4m in investment income looks* especially disappointing but CU's explanation is that it sought to maximize net income last year by taking advantage, for instance, of deep discount bonds in the United States.

That, along with the modest rise in leasing activities, accounts for the 7 point drop in the tax charge to leave net profits 17 per cent down at £76.5m.

What helped the shares gain 3p to 157p was the full 10 per cent rise in the final dividend after the jitters at the nine-months stage where the 9.8 per cent yield—and more important the prospect of steady dividend growth—is likely to outweigh worries about the profits outlook over the next couple of years.

Underwriting losses have ballooned in all areas except Holland with the total up from £21.3m to £57.3m. The drive for United States business is still the biggest drag with losses there jumping from £8.3m to £31.8m but CU is still adamant that the rise in claims and expenses which has resulted in a 2 point rise in the statutory operating *ratio to 104.7 per cent is only a little worse* than the United States industry average and is the price it has to pay to gain market share.

With this year's operating ratio likely to rise to 110 per cent, United States losses are likely to increase for at least the next year.

Elsewhere rate increases should help Canada this year while the recession at home could give the United Kingdom another hard year.

Last year's 17 per cent growth in premium income seems a hard target to beat this year and there is little chance of improving investment income offsetting further underwriting losses in 1981 and CU's profits look like going the wrong side of £100m.

Textiles

Vantona rides the storm

The huge losses which the Dutch group Akzo has been running up in its man-made fibres operations, where the problems caused by European overcapacity have been accentuated by United States imports, are evidence enough that some parts of the textiles industry are still under severe pressure. Indeed, today's results from Carrington-Viyella will add another gloomy reminder.

But there has been some bright spots. Nottingham Manufacturing yesterday, for example, and now Vantona, the household textiles and garment maker.

Vantona ended the year to November 30 with profits halved at £4.3m on volume down by about 15 per cent, which may not seem much cause for celebration. However the outturn was about £1m better than expected, and Vantona has benefitted in the second half from cutting overheads.

The relative stability of the group's uniforms business which suffered less than other parts of the group has also helped Vantona but the most encouraging aspect of the results is that Vantona, like Nottingham Manufacturing, finished its year which *tends to bear out the theory that the* de-stocking phase of the textiles cycle is almost through.

Vantona, meanwhile, yielding 10.6 per cent with the shares up 8p to 106p, seems fairly optimistic about the second half of 1980-81 and with the benefit of cost-cutting should show at least a partial profits recovery this year.

● *Investors quickly took up what must have been a fairly sizable rump of the 1986 " tap " stock yesterday morning. But though long gilt prices made better progress there is little sign quite yet of real enthusiasm at the longer end of the market.*

Meanwhile, the Bank further encouraged expectations of an early interest rate reduction by announcing a temporary cut in the banks' minimum reserve asset ratio, from 10 to 8 per cent, to run from March 2 to March 10. This releases additional liquidity of some £1,300m to cope with Petroleum Revenue Tax, but the authorities stressed that this has no implication for the general level of interest rates, nor for the proposed phasing out of the present reserve asset system.

Over and above liquidity needed for PRT payments—a fair chunk of which may in any case be paid for out of Certificates of Tax Deposit—the reduction in reserve assets may leave a little surplus liquidity around to cope with any fresh demand for gilts.

Certainly, there must be a strong case for the authorities tying up as much advance funding as possible before the Chancellor rises to make his Budget speech on March 10.

State industries—how generous are other governments?

Later today miners' leaders will join Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, in crucial talks with Mr David Howell, the Energy Secretary, about the details of the financial package which will be necessary to avoid open industrial conflict over the board's pit closure programme.

That the Government flinched from following through the implications of its monetarist economic logic is now part of political history. Having so speedily recognized the clear dangers for the rest of the economy, even at the cost of *appearing to bend its economic* philosophy, it now must equally rapidly find a way of reducing the total net cost of its capitulation and of its repercussions in other sectors of industry.

The direct cost of the coal industry affair alone will be substantial. But this is not the first time that the Government has given way on the sensitive issue of external financing limits (EFLs), which it so rigorously set for the nationalized industries when it was *returned to office.*

Central to the economic strategy at that time was a massive turnround in the finances of the state industries. The Government envisaged that instead of being beneficiaries of *loans and grants from the* Exchequer totalling £2,300m in 1979-80 the public sector industries would by 1983-84 be making a net contribution to the Treasury of £400m (at 1979 survey prices).

That objective has now faded from view. The recession, which has been far more severe than ever expected, has knocked the finances of almost all the state industries badly off course.

Having been forced to recognize the impact of the recession, the Government has earmarked an extra £800m for the nationalized industries (excluding steel, which yesterday returned to the centre of political debate) in the coming financial year. Even these extra sums still place the nationalized industries in some difficulty. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has made it clear that they will have to secure savings of more than £1,000m in the course of the new financial year.

Mrs Thatcher's willingness at least to go some way towards defusing the NCB's problems has not surprisingly been seized upon as the nearest thing yet to a U-turn. But the trend had already started and over the past few months there has been a series of other perhaps less dramatic, but nevertheless significant, manouvres.

Even before the first year of her administration had ended *the electricity supply industry* was given an extra £300m when falling demand and rising fuel costs squeezed its cash flow. Since then there has been a queue of supplicants from the state sector. British Airways, faced with rising energy costs and falling business traffic successfully sought and received an extra £85m on its external financing limit for the present financial year (1980/81).

British Rail, which last year was set an EFL of £750m was also in the queue and, however reluctantly, the Government obliged Sir Peter Parker the BR chairman, by agreeing to increase the railway's limit by £40m.

Lossmaking British Shipbuilders, faced with the continuing dearth of orders worldwide and the need to cut back its capacitw and labour force, similarly found that the *external financing limit* of £120m set for it was unrealistic in the circumstances in which it had to compete for business.

In this case Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry, provided a top-up of £65m.

The British Steel Corporation has provided the biggest test—and become the largest single beneficiary of the Government's relaxation of external financing limits. It began the 1980/81 financial year with a limit of £450m, supplemented by £121m, which the Government agreed could be rolled over from the previous year to cover bills which had gone unpaid because of the thirteen-week-long steel strike at the beginning of last year.

As the crisis subsequently deepened and imports flooded in, Sir Charles Villiers, the former chairman, was forced to put out his begging bowl. At first Sir Keith demurred, insisting that vigorous internal economies should be undertaken by the new chairman, Mr Ian MacGregor. That done, BSC still needed extra cash.

Sir Keith then obliged. The corporation got another £400m at the end of last year and, reflecting the pressure on the corporation's cash, the EFL was yesterday extended still further.

All the extra payments made to the nationalized industries in the present financial year have been financed from the Contingency Reserve.

In providing the extra cash for the BSC (to the chagrin of the private sector) the Government has tacitly accepted the inevitability of adding to the proliferation of subsidies which characterize the entire European steel industry — and indeed, other strategically important industries, including coal.

The fact is that subsidies of one form or another are a significant ingredient of European industry. It is with some justification that both the National Union of Mineworkers and the NCB can claim further assistance.

In the United Kingdom the BSC received total state aid between 1974 and 1979 amounting to £3,176m, made up of a mixture of public dividend capital, National Loans Fund money, grants under the Iron and Steel Act and foreign loans. In France the restructuring package set in train for the steel industry will involve possibly even more, with some estimates of at least £3,483m.

Other European governments have been equally indulgent. In Belgium the total call on state funds is likely to rise to about £1,700m, with a slightly lower sum involved in the re-organization of the state-owned Italian steel industry.

Even in West Germany North Rhine Westphalia will be involved in providing upwards of £1,600m over the next five years towards measures related to steel industry reorganization.

In the case of railways, *studies carried out for British* Rail have shown that the United Kingdom network receives less support from public funds than its European neighbours. Detailed investigations three years ago (which still hold broadly true) revealed that Britain received subsidies and loans amounting to 29 per cent of total railway costs, including investment. But West Germany received 39 per cent of costs, The Netherlands and France 45 per cent, Belgium 50 *per cent and Italy 68 per cent.*

Sir Derek Ezra will undoubtedly take into his talks with Mr Howell the *comparisons* which the NCB has made of direct subsidies which other EEC Governments make to *their coal industries. Excluding* social costs, total direct aid to the West German industry in 1979 amounted to £1,386m. In France it was £334m, in Belgium £208m and in the United Kingdom £189m in the financial *year 1979-80.*

So, in comparison with what is received by their counterparts in Europe, the extra sums which the National Coal Board and the National Union of *Mineworkers will be requesting today, appear puny.*

Peter Hill and Frances Williams

Production subsidies* to European coal industry (£ per tonne)

BELGIUM	34
FRANCE	18
W. GERMANY	15
UK	1½

*Excluding social grants and Government contributions to pension funds.
Source: National Coal Board. Figures relate to 1979.

The search for sound money

'It looks as if the Government will persist with sterling M3 for targeting purposes for the moment. Greater emphasis will be laid on the need to look at other indicators and there will at some stage be a new official monetary series on M2'

Despite having been blown off course so badly in year one of the medium-term financial strategy, the Chancellor is clearly going to use his Budget speech, first to reaffirm the Government's commitment to the principles of sound money and then to set out redefined monetary objectives for the years ahead.

But it would be surprising were the government's approach to the monetary issue not to contain what, on the surface at least, might appear to be contradictory strands.

On the one hand, the need for considerably greater flexibility is going to be stressed. The Government will want to open up its options, in terms both of interpreting and responding to monetary developments.

On the other hand, there is likely to be a commitment to greater rigidity. The Government will be keen to get across the message that it intends to *sharpen up the techniques of* monetary control to ensure that the money supply does not in future run away as it has on some occasions in the past.

In terms of " readjusting " its approach to monetary control, the Government has explored three principal areas. Here consideration of the balance between fiscal and monetary policy is excluded, though it remains true that if the two policies are incompatible something is bound to go nastily awry.

Strictly in terms of monetary control, the areas that have been under the microscope have been the appropriate monetary indicators, the methods of controlling the banking system, *and the general approach to* funding the public sector borrowing requirement.

As far as the appropriate monetary indicators go, both for target purposes and simply as general indicators of monetary conditions, the major issue has been the continuing suitability of sterling M3 as the government's leading aggregate for monetary targetry. Sterling M3 is the broad measure of banking money, taking in notes and coin in circulation together with residents' sterling bank deposits.

Specific criticisms of sterling M3 are generally threefold. It is argued that it is heavily inflated by the impact of the high nominal interest charges added to customers' accounts by the banks; that it is swollen by the tendency of savers to increase the proportion of their savings held as liquid deposits when interest rates are high; and that it is further swollen by the fact that public sector *domination of the long-term* savings markets means that the banks have little choice but to expand their balance sheets to accommodate heavy corporate sector borrowings.

That does not automatically *make sterling M3 a redundant* indicator, however. What it does do is call for careful interpretation of sterling M3 and emphasize the need to read the other monetary gauges too.

More seriously, perhaps, it suggests that there are potential problems in using sterling M3 as a strict guide to the desirable level of nominal gross domestic product growth in any one year, and perhaps as a guide to a sensible level for pay settlements.

On the *other* hand, other monetary measures are almost equally susceptible, in one direction or another, to the changing level of interest rates, and it would be wrong to write off sterling M3 as being notably less useful than any other indicator.

For a start, it reflects the fact that in a period of high interest rates the potential nominal spending power of savers is being rapidly increased. Moreover, one should not lose sight of the fact that high interest rates are an essential factor in the mechanism of the disinflationary squeeze.

For the moment it looks as if the Government will probably persist with sterling M3 for targeting purposes. But greater emphasis will, of course, be laid on the need to look at other indicators, whether narrower or broader, and there will at some stage be a new official monetary series on M2 retail money—basically the money holdings of potential consumers.

Just how quickly this new series will start is not yet clear. There is still some definitional and technical work to be done, particularly in the area of deciding what to do about corporate sector money and how to identify, from the statistics available, what can be classified as personal as opposed to small business cash holdings.

As the Government looks for greater flexibility in its use of the various monetary measures, however, it at once creates a potential problem of credibility. One of the great problems of the monetarist approach has been that it has been presented as a very simple and mechanistic doctrine, when most monetary economists would strongly argue that it is really no such thing.

But once you start telling people that it is no such thing, and once words like flexibility start to creep in, financial markets, whose cynicism has often proved right in the past, start to get nervous.

The quid pro quo, then, for flexibility at one end of the spectrum has to be that the Government is going to make a better job in future of actually keeping the monetary aggregates on a suitably tight rein.

Already the banking " corset " *has been buried. Next to go will* probably be the present, technically deficient, reserve asset system. That will leave us with a cash system of sorts with the emphasis increasingly laid on controlling the monetary base—*usually defined as notes and* coin in circulation together with the banks' till cash and cash balances with the central bank: in other words, the liabilities' side of the central bank's own balance sheet.

The crucial element here is the banking sector's cash deposits at the Bank of England. Either by requiring banks to keep a specified proportion of their liabilities in such a form, or by assuming that banks will maintain a reasonably stable proportion of their liabilities in such a form out of prudential and operational considerations, the Bank will start to concentrate on open market operations designed to control the size of this cash base. In this way it will hope to regulate the banks' liabilities that make up the bulk *of the money supply.*

The big questions on which the authorities will have to pronounce in moving in this direction concern the nature of the cash ratio, the interest to be paid on banking deposits at the central bank and the size and definition of the pool of assets that the banking system will be allowed to turn into cash to deal with the large daily ebb and flow of money between the private sector and the Government.

Some of these elements may become clearer at budget time, but the authorities have already made it clear that they intend to move through a process of evolutionary rather than overnight change and that their eventual destination has not yet been determined.

However fast or slowly the authorities proceed in the direction of a monetary base system, two areas where they are already moving are on interest rate flexibility and improving the methods of funding the public sector borrowing requirement.

The former involves two main elements, namely more flexibility in open market operations and the depoliticizing of short-term interest rates. How soon minimum lending rate can be phased out remains to be seen, but it seems a reasonable bet that it will disappear before the present cyclical downturn in interest rates is over.

As far as funding goes, the Government has already moved to tap far more aggressively the fast growing personal sector surpluses. It may well decide that it will also be worth trying a short-dated bond—effectively a long-dated Treasury bill—to tap the more liquid parts of the corporate sector and the building societies.

The more interesting question, however, is how quickly it will react in its market operations if the financial climate starts to move against it at some stage over the coming months.

John Whitmore

Business Diary: Bishop of British Midland

[illegible] so pervasive an industry British airlines have, with the exception of Sir Freddie Laker, come up with next to no well-known names.

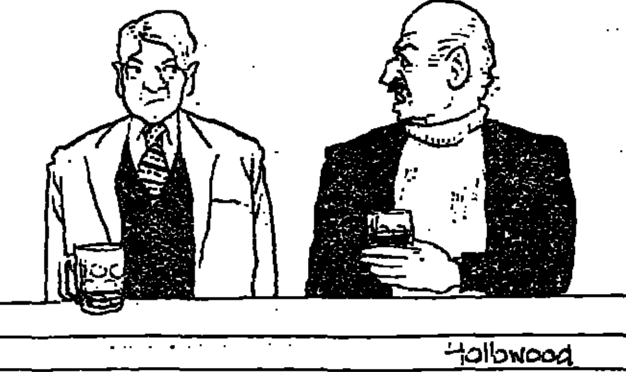
There is Adam Thomson, of course, but you would have to [illegible] that he is head of BCal to [illegible]ce him.

Now, however, Michael Bishop is coming up on the [illegible]side to make his mark with the travelling public. The chairman and managing director of British Midland Airways, is trying to make a name in internal travel by undercutting British Airways and BCal on the shuttle between London Heathrow, Glasgow and Heathrow.

Bishop, who *is only 38, is* very much his own master at the Derby-based independent airline, having bought out Minster Assets interests three years ago. He joined British Midland in 1965 as station manager at Manchester and worked his way up through the organization under the Minster regime to become managing director and deputy chairman.



Michael Bishop.



" After announcing the closure of 50 pits, then 25, then none at all, would not the next logical step in placating the miners be the naming of 25 or more absolutely new pits ? "

His biggest coup of that period was to fly to South Africa to buy, for peanuts, a fleet of *Viscount airliners* which the airline operates to this day alongside more modern DC9s, although he will have to take a big, and expensive, decision on reequipment in the near future.

Unlike Sir Freddie, Bishop is a retiring character but, like the champion of private enterprise aviation, he has strong views on the place of the independents.

Announcing his application *to the Civil Aviation Authority* yesterday, Bishop said: First, we believe that the time has come for an independent airline such as ours to be given access to the high volume trunk routes in this country ".

He is offering lower fares as well as bars and inflight catering

● Edgar Wille and Valerie Hammond have come to what is to me a surprising conclusion—that computers are good for you.

Wille is head of management development at the National Coal Board and Hammond a member of the Women and Management project team at Ashridge Management College.

They have collaborated on a book, *The Computer in Personnel Work* (£5.55), for the Institution of Personnel Management and say that even in security matters the computer is all right with them.

" The computer, by requiring the keying in of the correct password, can also act as a safeguard against unauthorized passing of information ", they say, adding: " It is perhaps easier to gain access to paper personnel files than to computerized personnel records."

But Wille and Hammond do not say anything about the *authorized* passing on of information by the employer.

● Ron Hickman, the British inventor of the Black and Decker Workmate workbench, has just spent more than $1m *to win a court battle against* the world's biggest retailer, Sears Roebuck, which was found to have infringed Hickman's patents.

Hickman is now back home in Jersey after the three-week court case in Baltimore. His Jersey-based company, Tekron International, and the United States manufacturers, Black and Decker, accused Sears Roebuck of breaking Workmate patents by producing a similar workbench called the Workbuddy.

Hickman says he won " hands down ". He is now waiting for the judge to decide on damages and says that the patents on the Workmate have been proved for the first time in the United States and this would thus prevent other manufacturers from moving in.

Sears, Hickman says, turned down an offer to license Workmate nine years ago because it would not sell on the American market.

Tekron International, which Hickman set up when he moved from the United Kingdom four years ago, has premises on a Jersey trading estate. It employs 17 people and is working on 20 different inventions.



The fireplace logo above is that of what the French claim to be the world's largest hotel association, the Federation Nationale des Logis et Auberges de France. The president, Julien Nicolle, was in London yesterday to launch the annual guide.

The fire symbolizes hosptitality, but Nicolle told me that he and the federation have booted no less than 248 members into the flames over the last five years for failing to keep up standards, 58 last year alone.

Were they allowed to return after their roasting ? " Theoretically, yes," he said darkly. Nicolle, who is mayor of Mont St Michel and owner of the Hotel de Guesclin there, says the federation now has 4,300 hotels in membership offering 70,000 rooms.

The federation grew up after the war as a means of getting family-run hotels back onto their feet.

The good news about the guide is that it is free, save 50p in postage stamps from the French National Tourist Office here. The bad news is it is in French.

Ross Davies

Hawthorn agrees new bid from Starwest

By Margareta Pagano

Starwest Investment Holdings yesterday made an agreed increased bid for R. & W. Hawthorn Leslie, valuing the engineering group at £3.93m.

The offer was raised to 147p cash a share and 55p for each preference share, against the original terms of 130p and 45p. The Hawthorn board firmly rejected Starwest's approach in December. The board, holding 6 per cent of the equity, quickly increased its stake to 9 per cent and asked shareholders to take no further action.

The first offer terms, described as "inadequate" by Hawthorn, valued the former shipbuilding group at £3.75m. On February 11 Starwest revealed that acceptances for only 3.14 per cent had been received, bringing its stake to 45.06 per cent, and extended the offer date until February 23. Hawthorn then called on the privately controlled investment group to increase or withdraw its offer.

The board, whose chairman is Admiral Sir Horace Law, have unanimously recommended acceptance to shareholders and will be taking up the shares under its control. The other large shareholders, M and G, the investment group with 24.6 per cent, and Prudential, with 7.7 per cent, backed the board in its rejection and are expected to accept the increased offer.

Hawthorn's shares fell 3p to 145p on the news yesterday.

A new offer will now be made with consent of the City panel since the existing offer has lapsed. Conditions include acceptances of more than 50 per cent being received by Starwest.

Mr Remo Dipre, Starwest's chairman, has agreed that Mr Gordon Conradi and Mr Gordon Marks, directors of British Central Electrical, Hawthorn's main subsidiary, should be invited to join the Starwest board when the offer becomes unconditional.

Stock markets

New tap exhausted as gilts surge continues

Continuing hopes of a 3 per cent cut in the minimum lending rate in the Budget, led to a further surge in demand for Government securities yesterday.

The strength of business in gilts was highlighted by the surprising exhaustion of the new tap Treasury 12 per cent 1986 at £20¼, with rumours of between £3,000m and £4,000m being issued. In the event, dealers were talking of another replacement tap being announced on Friday.

In longs, gains of up to £⅞ were registered amid active turnover, while at the shorter end, earlier improvements of around £⅛ soon gave way to profit taking and prices closed generally unchanged on the day.

Equities were also able to recover on the back of the strength in the gilt market, and the immediate fears about a cut in the dividend at ICI later in the week, and the current strike by water and sewage workers, took a back seat. Jobbers reported active two-way business, although conditions remained thin. The *FT* Index, after a hesitant start, closed at the top with a rise of 7.9 to 494.5.

Investors were able to take some disappointing full-year figures from National Westminster Bank and Commercial Union in their stride.

Sentiment was even given a boost by the announcement of the Royal engagement which led to speculative buying of those companies likely to benefit from the celebrations.

Newcomer British Aerospace initially made further headway, advancing to 179p, but profit taking saw the price close unchanged at 176p.

Leading industrials were in good form and jobbers were able to report some "determined buying" on the back of it. However, Beecham plummeted to 161p on fears of a delay over its new drug Augmentin. The shares later recovered to 167p—a net loss on the day of 8p, after a statement from the group and subsequent cheap buying. ICI was also in a better mood and raillied 4p to 288p ahead of tomorrow's figures, while Unilever, reporting next week, jumped 10p to 483p. Improvements were also seen in Fisons, 3p to 138p, Hawker Siddeley, 6p to 274p, GKN, 2p to 148p and Metal Box, a similar figure at 188p.

Dealers are anxiously awaiting details of a major property deal from Phoenix Mining and Finance, the Midlands-based property group. Interest during the last week has seen the shares rise from 54p to a new high of 59p with more than 500,000 shares changing hands. Yesterday the price eased 1p to 56p on profit taking.

Trust Securities returned from suspension 68p higher at 300p, along with details of its major property deal with W. W. Drinkwater. Shares of B. S. & W. Whiteley were suspended at 8p pending an announcement.

Full-year figures from National Westminster Bank were judged disappointing, but the expected flood of selling failed to materialize and prizes in the sector as a whole steadied at the close. Nat West itself ended the day 4p lower at 361p, while Barclays dipped 8p to 388p, Midland 7p to 331p and Llyods, which has already reported slipped 5p to 323p. Speculative attention again lifte Grindlays 10p to 173p.

Commercial Union made a betteer job of things, rising 3p to 157p, and the liberal increase in the dividend was able to offest any short-term selling. Elsewhere, the weaker pound added 2p to General Accident at 306p, 2p to GRE at 326p, 5p to Royal Insurance at 378p and 9p Sun Alliance at 781p.

Better than expected full-year figures had Vantona 8p higher at 106p, after 109, and prompted a further rally in textiles generally. Nottingham Manufacturing, which reported earlier in the week, rose 2p to 120p, Textured Jersey 7p to 95p, British Mohair 3p to 37p and Courtaulds 4p to 60p.

Shares of Gaskell Broadloom were the subject of a dawn raid by brokers Rowe & Pitman, on behalf of a client. The shares leapt 21p to 66p.

News of a joint venture into the electric car market had shares of Chloride, 1p firmer at 39p and Lucas Industries 7p stronger at 177p.

The announcement of The Prince of Wales' engagement brought speculative interest to several companies likely to benefit from subsequent commemorative activity. Birmingham Mint jumped 17p to 223p, Wedgwood 5p to 73½p, Royal Worcester 23p to 293p, Staffordshire Potteries 5p to 49p, Wade Potteries 5p to 52p, Standard Fireworks 8p to 96p and Black & Edgington 4p to 38p.

Breweries and hotels also joined in the celebration with

Shares of Lasmo were hoisted 12p to 644p yesterday as brokers Cazenove again entered the market and picked up all available stock on offer. This has led investors to pay particular attention to the group, especially in view of the seventh round licences which are expected to be allocated any day now.

Bass 4p higher, Distillers 3p better at 189p while Grand Metropolitan added 5p to 171p and Trusthouse Forte 7p to 200p.

Equity turnover for February 23 was £135.172m (bargains 19,300). Active stocks according to the Exchange Telegraph were British Aerospace, Plessey, Associated Dairies, GEC, Beecham, Allebone and Sons and Unilever.

Traditional options: Dealers reported quiet conditions with calls made in Kalgurli, a rate of 9p, in Leonard Oil, Town and City, Intervision Video, Fisons and Premier Oil. Doubles were completed in ICI at 32p, in Strata Oil, Lonrho, Grindlays and First National Finance.

Traded options: A total of 1.448 contracts were made yesterday. Consolidated Gold attracted 58, BP 20, Commercial Union a total of 253

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Anglo Int (F)	—(—)	0.4(0.48)	—(—)	3.0(—)	6/4	5.0(4.5)
Aquis Securities (F)	—(—)	0.57(0.39)	0.96(0.99)	0.6(0.5)	1/5	0.9(0.72)
Commerc'l Union (F)	1,172(1,149)	103.2(137.6)	18.6(22.3)	6.4(5.8)	15/5	10.8(9.8)
Cent. Trustee (F)	—(—)	7.2(3.38)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Hongkong Tin (F)	3.6(3.5)	0.13*(0.18*)	18.8(46.5)	20(—)	—	30(51.25)
Inv. in Success (F)	—(—)	0.31*(0.35*)	—(—)	3.7(—)	30/4	4.9(4.15)
Medminster (I)	5.21(5.09)	0.16(0.1)	—(—)	1.5(1.1)	8/4	—(—)
Nat Westminster (F)	—(—)	410.0(441.0)	134.5(141.8)	12.25(10.25)	—	21.0(17.5)
Rights and Issues (F)	—(—)	0.13*(0.10*)	4.58(3.97)	2.8(—)	—	3.8(3.48)
Vantona (F)	109(117)	4.29(8.57)	16.2(36.3)	5.0(5.0)	1/7	8.0(8.0)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.4282. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. *Net.

Gaskell Broadloom shares soar on raid news

By Catherine Gunn

Shares of Lancashire carpet manufacturer Gaskell Broadloom leapt 21p to a new high of 66p yesterday, after stockbroker Rowe & Pitman, announced that an unnamed client was prepared to pay 64½p a share for up to 14.9 per cent of the equity, under the new rules for the conduct of stock market raids. The previous 1980-81 high was 59p.

Mr Maurice Horton, chairman and managing director of Gaskell Broadloom, said he had no idea who the buyer could be. A spokesman for Rowe & Pitman declined to reveal the client's identity until the purchase has been completed.

With most of the 4.39m shares held by individuals, he said "it could take days rather than hours" to acquire the stake. By yesterday evening the firm had made "reasonable progress in view of the difficult nature of the operation", and was expecting to buy more shares today.

Imperial Tobacco's ITC Pension Trust and ITC Pension Investments were approached yesterday, but have retained their combined 5.98 per cent stake in Gaskell. The directors of Gaskell control 18.2 per cent of the shares, and Mrs K. Gaskell has 11.2 per cent.

One name mentioned early on, but discarded as a buyer by the market after reports of a denial, was Hong Kong Carpets, the company that has a 29.9 per cent stake in Carpets International. It acquired 25 per cent of that stake last May, in the *second of that summer series* of stock market raids conducted by Rowe & Pitman before the rules were revised. Rowe & Pitman were unable to comment last night on whether Hong Kong Carpets was interested in Gaskell.

Full-year profits top £570,000 at Aquis Securities

By Our Financial Staff

Aquis Securities, the property development group in which Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance has nearly 65 per cent of the shares, raised pre tax profits from £394,008 to £570,679 in the year to December 31.

The group sold Atlas House, Cheapside, in the City of London to a subsidiary of Jardine Matheson for £9.25m last June. Atlas House is thought to have provided income at a rate of only 5 per cent or so, and the group obviously has got a lot more than that by putting the money on deposit.

Aquis said last August that it planned to reinvest the proceeds in the property sector by buying existing properties and developing others. The deal revealed a surplus of £3.65m, which was credited to capital reserves.

The gross dividend rises from 1.03p to 1.29p

Briefly

Lyle Shipping Co.: The resolution approving the acquisition of Leadenhall Commodities has been approved. Completion is due to take place on February 26.

Yearling bonds: Coupon on this week's local authority bonds is down from 12¾ per cent to 12¾ per cent.

British Aerospace: Applications for registration processed in respect of foreign held shares as at last night's close of business totalled 550 shares.

Culter Guard Bridge: Midland Bank (Overseas) nominees no longer have a holding of over 5 per cent in the issued shares of the company.

Central Manufacturing and Trading: Caparo Group has acquired a further 525,487 ordinary shares at 55p, and now hold 12.96m shares (49 per cent).

First National Finance Corpn: Sir Michael Wilson has retired from the board having reached retirement age.

Eva Industries: shareholders have been advised to take no action yet on the £3.7m bid from Anglo Indonesian Corporation. Mr Roy Astley, chairman, said board would meet today to decide on the offer which is a technicality under Rule 34.

M. F. North: Abingworth has sold its total interest in M. F. North, some 2.9m shares. The Morgan Grenfell Special Exempt Exempt Fund acquired an interest of 1.8m shares (7.2 per cent).

Cantors: Mr J. Davis, managing director, has acquired 78,044 "A" ordinary shares.

European Options Exchange: During period from February 13 to 19 the exchange reported third highest period volume since opening of market. A total of 21,931 options changed hands, of which 18,179 were calls, and 3,752 puts. Average daily turnover came to 4,386 contracts. Volume in the previous period totalled 15,528 options.

***Throgmorton* Secured Growth Trust:** Dividend for half year to January 1 was held at 0.87p gross. Board expects total dividend for year to be not less than last year. Pretax revenue £180,000 (£211,500). Eps 1.19p (1.37p). Nav per unit of capital loan stock 135.8p (125.4p).

Trust of Property Shares: Gross income for period March 11 1980 to December 31, £36,000. Pretax profit, £25,000. Eps 0.224p. Dividend 0.25p gross. Nav 11.34p. For comparison purposes, pretax profit for period to September 30, 1980 was £17,000.

Francis bid for Evered lapses

By Rosemary Unsworth

The £1.3m bid for Evered, the lossmaking engineering group, by Francis Industries has lapsed becaused of the low level of acceptances.

The evident resistance to the 22p offered for each ordinary share expressed by certain shareholders despite the recommendation to accept by Evered's board was also cited.

Francis, a packaging and automotive components manufacturer, revealed that it had received acceptances for only 9.9 per cent of the ordinary shares and for 83.6 per cent of the preference shares. It had offered 40p each for the latter.

Although the Evered board finally recommended acceptance last month, Saudi Arabian shareholders with 29.9 per cent, rejected the bid. Astra Industrial also held just over 13 per cent.

Mr Paul Tapscott, Francis's deputy chairman, had said that he would personally have been unhappy with a large outstanding minority in Evered if the bid, which was launched in December, succeeded.

Evered's board was diffident about the offer because it believed that it did not fully reflect the asset value or the company's long-term prospects.

But the directors realized that the bid might be attractive to with other parties had proved ordinary shareholders as talks inconclusive and because a return to profitability depended on an upturn in industrial demand. They also urged an improvement in the 40p offer for the preference shares.

Whiteley suspended pending development

B. S. & W. Whiteley, the electrical insulating pressboard manufacturer, which is selling its majority interest in a South African company to a local group, yesterday asked for its listing to be "temporarily" suspended pending an announcement.

The suspension price was 8p. The shares were as high as 18½p at one time last year but have been around 10p for some time.

Swiss interests hold nearly 30 per cent of the shares. At the last count the Prudential Assurance group had a further 7 per cent.

Last October shareholders were told that the South African deal had not yet gone through. Inclusion of its figures helped the group to keep pretax losses down to £266,296 for the half year to last September compared with profits of £100,592.

The group went out of the dividend list with a 1.79p gross for 1979.

Broken Hill's oil drilling programme

Broken Hill Proprietary has now released details of its major oil exploration programme for 1981 both in Australia and in New Zealand and China. Eight wells will be drilled offshore and seven or more onshore in Australia.

The main interest will be in the Bass Strait area.

BHP-Esso will drill up to six wells starting in late April or early May with the arrival of the drillship Southern Cross. The partners are also planning a seismic survey to follow up existing prospects leads and complete the extensive high quality seismic coverage of all the permit and licence areas of the basin.

Exco to buy minority of Godsell Group

Exco Securities (1979), the parent company of the Astley & Pearce money broking group, has agreed to exchange shares for the remaining minority shareholding in the Godsell Group of money brokers. Exco will then own all the issued share capital of both money broking groups.

There will be no change in the management, which will continue to operate independently from their present separate locations.

Mr Boanas to leave W Greenwell

Mr Arthur Boanas, aged 54, announced yesterday in an agreed joint statement that he will be resigning as a partner of stockbrokers W. Greenwell & Co in May. Mr Boanas, who joined the firm 15 years ago in its research department and who has been a partner for 10 years, says he will be returning to fund management and financial counselling. He added: "It has been my choice to resign. I want to return to fund management and that is something Greenwell's don't do". Mr Boanas currently carries out some research on companies and services certain of Greenwell's clients.

Akzo passes final payout after loss

By Our Financial Staff

Akzo, the Dutch chemicals and manmade fibres group, yesterday revealed heavy losses for 1980 due to poor sales from both its main divisions. The final dividend has been passed.

A spokesman said trading had been hit in the last two years by increased imports from the United States and over-capacity within the group's *Enka European plants throughout Europe*, which include British Enkalon.

Akzo reports a loss of 168m florins (£13m) on sales slightly ahead at 12,400m florins, against 12,000m florins last time, after extraordinary items. Net income before items was 171m florins against 289m florins in the previous year, but losses from extraordinary items amounting to 239m florins, are due entirely to restructuring costs of Enka Europe announced last month. The final dividend last year was 2.4 florins.

The decline in sales of manmade fibres in 1980 was mainly in Enka Europe's synthetic textile and carpet fibres. The board says that the measures taken at plants in West Germany, the Netherlands and Northern Ireland will result in losses of some £76.9m. Part of this will come from provisions made in the last few years, with the remaining 250m florins included in the extraordinary items.

Once these measures are completed, the board is looking for an increase in Enka's results annually of between 150 and 200m florins.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000 12%, over £50,000 12½%.

Medminster lifts interim dividend as profits jump

By Our Financial Staff

Medminster, the shipping and furniture hire group, boosted profits by 57 per cent at the halfway stage and has lifted the dividend by more than a third to 2.14p gross.

The group, which hires out props to the film, television and theatre industries, pushed pretax profits from £105,000 to £166,000 while turnover remained steady at £5.2m in the six months to December.

The bulk of the sales from the shipping and freight side remained at £4.7m and furniture hire and sale contributed £455,000 against £307,000 last time.

Shipping profits increased while the furniture division bore the brunt of refurbishment costs for a new warehouse and equipment. The work may take another year, Mr John Delaney, the chairman, said.

Costain Australia

Costain Australia reports a profit for 1980 after tax but before extraordinary items, at $A5.7m (£2.8m), an increase of 66.4 per cent over the previous year. Turnover amounted to $A127.6m, an increase of 20.1 per cent.

The board proposes a rights issue of one-for-four at $A4.20. The new shares will only rank for half the interim dividend or 1981.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Monthly figures for unemployment in the UK published by the Department of Employment [illegible].

	Adults (adjusted)	% of all employees	Unadjusted incl school leavers
1980			
Feb	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
March	1,414	5.9	1,47[illegible]
April	1,45[illegible]	6.0	1,523
May	1,484	6.1	1,509
June	1,5[illegible]	6.4	1,5[illegible]
July	1,6[illegible]	6.5	1,8[illegible]
Aug	1,695	7.0	2,001
Sept	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oct	1,89[illegible]	7.8	2,0[illegible]
Nov	2,0[illegible]	[illegible]	2,162
Dec	2,1[illegible]	[illegible]	2,244
1981			
Jan	2,2[illegible]	9.2	2,419
Feb	2,313	9.6	2,463

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Seasonally adjusted (excluding school leavers)

	Number	Change in month	% of all employees
South East	496.3	−22.0	6.5
East Anglia	55.4	− 2.3	7.8
South West	142.6	− 4.0	8.6
W Midlands	260.4	+11.9	11.2
E Midlands	140.3	− 5.5	8.7
Yorkshire & Humberside	216.6	− 5.7	10.1
N West	329.5	− 9.4	11.8
North	175.9	− 4.0	12.7
Wales	136.6	− 8.3	12.6
Scotland	258.9	− 6.6	11.5
Britain	2,230.3	−76.4	9.4
N Ireland	83.0	− 2.1	16.1
United Kingdom	2,313.3	−75.5	9.6

Return to profits at Firestone

Firestone Tire and Rubber said its North American tyre operation had a $10m (£4.46m) operating profit in the first quarter to December 1 compared with an operating loss of $14m in the first quarter last year.

The company attributed the improvement to the closing of unprofitable operations, reductions in overheads and improved productivity, which more than offset a 24 per cent *decline in shipments*.

International tyre operations' operating profits rose to $29m from $25m, while its diversified products' operating profits fell to $10m from $12m.

The company had a foreign exchange gain of $13m in the latest quarter in contrast to a $4m loss a year earlier.

During the quarter proceeds of $230m *from the sale of Firestone Plastics* and a synthetic rubber plant in France along with cash from reduced working capital were used to reduce debt by $101m and increase cash and short-term investments by $161m Firestone said.

International

Sharp fall at EZ

Lower metals prices and a seven-week strike at its Tasmanian west coast mines cut first-half net profits to A$9.7m (£4.9m) at EZ Industries, against A$33.1m in the first half last year.

Massey Ferguson

The Supreme Court of South Australia has approved a scheme of arrangement between Massey Ferguson (Australia) and its local creditors, the company said.

The court also dismissed an application by Capel Court Corporation, in which Midland Bank International has a 26 per cent stake, for the winding up of Massey Ferguson Finance (Australia).

Krupp sales rise 9pc

Fried Krupp said that its turnover, incoming orders, and total order book expanded considerably in 1980.

Sales rose 9 per cent to Dm13,900m (£2.9m), incoming orders were up 12 per cent at Dm15,100m and overall external orders at the end of December were 12 per cent higher at Dm10,500m.

Krupp is due to publish its 1980 results in June. It made a net group profit of Dm64.2m in 1979 after a loss of Dm19.1m in 1978.

Business appointments

Three non-executive directors for Nexos

Mr Martin Harris, has been made non-executive chairman of Nexos Office Systems by the National Enterprise Board. Mr Ken Frost and Mr John Oakley will be non-executive directors.

Mr T. S. Braybrooke, group deputy managing director of Chubb & Son, is to join the main board as international product director for physical security products in the United Kingdom and overseas. He also become chairman of Josiah Parkes & Sons (Holdings). Mr D. N. Dring becomes chairman of Chubb Fire Security and Chubb Electronics and joins the main board as international product director for fire and burglar alarm products in the United Kingdom and overseas. Mr A. L. Markham joins the main board as regional director for North America and South Africa; Mr P. G. Crossland becomes managing director of Chubb Fire Security; Mr R. G. Bond-Gunning becomes managing director of Chubb Electronics; Mr D. S. Maitland is to be chairman of Josiah Parkes and Sons and Mr D. F. Langley becomes managing director of Josiah Parkes & Sons. All appointments are from April 1.

Mr Graham Mooney has been appointed an executive director of Arthur Price of England.

Mr Ernest Sharp is to join the board of Unigate as a non-executive director and will resign as chairman of Ciltspur, which was recently acquired by Unigate.

Mr Robert Wilson has become managing director of Lambert and Bendall (IPEX).

The board of London Transport International Services has been reconstituted under the chairmanship of Sir Peter Masefield. Mr Arthur Knight continues as managing director. The other LTI board members are: Mr David Quarmby, Dr Tony Ridley, Mr William Maxwell (until March 31), Mr John Cameron and Mr Ian Phillips.

Mr J. P. Robertson has been appointed chairman and managing director of the newly-formed Furness Withy (Shipbroking) company. Other board appointments are: Mr A. B. M. Collyns, Mr T. J. Davidson, Mr S. J. Nall, Mr A. C. Roberts, and Mr C. M. Williams.

Mr R. J. Moore has become managing director of SPP Fluid Engineering group.

Mr Brian Smith has been appointed a part-time member of the Civil Aviation Authority for a three-year term. He will succeed Mr A. Maxwell Stamp, who will retire on April 30.

AGB Research has appointed the following to the boards of its Irish market research subsidiary companies: Mr D. A. C. Elyan, Mr P. J. Curran (alternate Mr W. G. M. Frew) and Mr P. W. Wisson at Attwood Research of Ireland; Mr Elyan, Mr Curran (alternate Mr Frew) and Mr M. A. Kirkham at Irish TAM. Mr E. F. Williams to continue as managing director of both companies. Mr B. G. W. Attwood and Mr D. A. W. Black have resigned as directors after acquisition by AGB Research.

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER was firm.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £806.50-7.50 a metric ton; three months, £82[illegible]-27.50. Sales, 2,950 tons. Cash cathodes, £802.50-3.00; three months, £816-17.00. Sales 400 tons. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £805-3.50; three months, £8[illegible]-26.50. Settlement, £805.50. Sales, 11,425 tons. Cash cathodes, £7[illegible]-800.00; three months, £810-11.00. Settlement, £800.00. Sales, [illegible] tons.

TIN was firmer at yesterday's close.—Afternoon.—Standard cash £6,020-30 a tonne; three months, £6,170-75. Sales, 9[illegible] tonnes. High grade, cash, £6,020-30; three months, £6,170-75. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard, cash £6,005-10; three months, £6,150-55. Settlement, £6,010. Sales 340 tonnes. High grade, cash, £6,005-10; three months, £6,150-55. Settlement, £6,010. Sales nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works rose by 25 cents to 31.25 ringgit per kilo.

LEAD was irregular.—Afternoon.—Cash £318.60-19.50 per tonne; three months, £325.50-28.75. Sales, 6,550 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £319-20; three months, £32[illegible].50-30.50. Settlement, £320.000. Sales, 4,250 tonnes.

ZINC was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £330.50-331 per tonne; three months, £341.50-42.00. Sales, 9,625 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £331-32.00; three months, £34[illegible]-42.25. Settlement, £3[illegible].00. Sales, 5,[illegible]50 tonnes.

PLATINUM was at £216.20 ($481.50) a troy ounce.

SILVER closed very steady. Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot, 580.15p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 1,301.90); three months, [illegible].35p (1,3[illegible]70c); six months, [illegible].35p (1,411.90c); one year, [illegible] (1,514.30c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 584.5-[illegible].0p; three months, 602.5-4.0p. Sales, 21 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash 580-81.5p; three months, 598.5-99.0p. Settlement, [illegible]1.5p. Sales, 37 lots.

ALUMINIUM was irregular.—Afternoon.—Cash, £668-70.00 per tonne; three months, £673-74.00. Sales, 575 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £668-[illegible].50; three months, £671-72.00. Settlement, £669.50. Sales, 5,125 tonnes.

NICKEL closed barely steady. Afternoon.—Cash, £2,857-67 per tonne; three months, £2,832-37. Sales, 156 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £2,865-70; three months, £2,840-45. Settlement, [illegible],870. Sales, 600 tonnes.

RUBBER was uncertain yesterday (pence per kilo): April, 59.00-59.50; May, 60.10-60.40; April-June, 60.00-[illegible].10; July-Sept, 62.70-62.90; Oct-Dec, 65.70-65.80; Jan-March, 68.60-[illegible].70; April-June, 71.60-71.70; July-Sept, 74.70-74.80; Oct-Dec, 77.60-[illegible].70. Sales, 40 lots at five tonnes each and 262 lots at 15 tonnes each.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were uncertain—(pence per kilo): Spot: 57.50-58.50. Cifs: April, 61.50-62.00; May, 62.00-[illegible].50.

COFFEE.—ROBUSTAS (£ per tonne): March, 1,055-37; May, 1,050-51; July, [illegible]064-66; Sept, 1,075-78; Nov, 1,080-[illegible]; Jan, 1,085-1,110; March, 1,080-1[illegible]0. Sales: 2,940 lots, including 23 options.

ARABICA (officials at 16.45): Feb, [illegible]2.00-45.00; April, 143.00-46.00; June, 143.00-46.00; Aug, 143.00-[illegible].00; Oct, 145.0-48.00; Dec, 145.00-[illegible].00; Feb, 144.00-47.00. Sales: Nil.

COCOA was steady (£ per metric ton). March, 878-80; May, 917-18; July, [illegible]0-41; Sept, 962-63; Dec, 993-94; March, 1,017-19; May, 1,036-38. Sales: 381 lots.

SUGAR.—Lack of follow-through to New York and mixed profit-taking in the afternoon brought "raw" sugar futures down from earlier "highs" in London yesterday. The market closed with pared on-balance gains of £5.00 to £6.40 per tonne contrasting with an average £9.40 mid-session advance. Turnover was 9,149 lots, including 150 "kerbs".

Traders attributed the very steady opening trend to market reports, later confirmed by Reuters, that India had banned sugar exports. Lower sterling and higher Paris prices were also featured.

The Indian Government said it banned sugar exports to re-assess its domestic supply situation. India had previously contracted sugar from various operators to make good its own production shortfall.

But under special trade arrangements, such sugar was expected to be returned when India's supply situation improved: the supply of this replacement sugar involving some 180,000 tonnes to operators concerned would be automatically cancelled, traders said.

The London daily "raws" price was £10 up on tone at £264, with "whites" £7 higher at £287.

The London daily price of "raws" was £10.00 higher at £264; the "whites" price was £7.00 higher at £287. Futures (£ per tonne): March, 266.50-67.00; May, 268.00-68.05; Aug, 263.50-64.00; Oct, 258.50-59.75; Jan, 244.00-45.00; March, 245.00-46.00; May, 244.00-46.00. Sales: 9,149 lots. Closing tone: Steady. ISA prices (Feb 23): daily, 23.48c; 15-day average, 24.25c.

SOYABEAN MEAL was quietly steady yesterday (£ per tonne):—April, 126.30-26.50; June, 129.60-29.80; Aug, 131.90-32.00; Oct, 132.00-33.20; Dec, 13[illegible].50-35.50; Feb, 133.00-38.00; April, 133.00-40.00. Sales: 115 lots.

WOOL.—NZ Crossbreds, No 2 contract, cents per kilo (quiet): March, 340-47; May, 354-56; Aug, 362-70; Oct, 372-76; Dec, 378-79; Jan, 378-82; March, 381-83; May, 382-87; Aug, 383-90. Sales: four lots.

GRAIN (The Baltic).—WHEAT.—Canadian western red spring, unquoted. US dark northern spring, No 2, 14 per cent: March, £116.75 transhipment east coast. US hard winter, 13½ per cent: March, £107.95; April, £109 trans-shipment east coast. EEC, unquoted. English feed, fob: April, £114; April-June £116 quoted.

MAIZE.—US.—French and South African white, both unquoted. South African yellow: March-April, £87.00.

BARLEY.—English feed, fob: April-June, £103 seller. All per tonne cif UK unless stated.

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta): EEC origin.—BARLEY was easier.—March, £95.45; May, £98.70; Sept, £93.35; Nov, £97.05; Jan, £100.95. Sales: 207 lots. WHEAT was easier.—March, £107.40; May, £111.00; July, £114.75; Sept, £98.30; Nov, £100.85; Jan, £105.75. Sales: 109 lots.

Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices for Feb 23:

	Other milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
Eastern	—	£108.60	£95.60
E Midlands	—	£107.20	£96.50
N East	—	£107.00	£94.00
Scotland	—	—	£91.90

Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices for Feb 24:

	Other milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
S East	—	£106.40	£93.80
S West	—	£106.10	£96.00
W Midlands	£108.50	£104.00	£93.80
N West	—	£107.10	£96.00

MEAT COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Feb 24.—GB: Cattle, 88.22p per kglw (+2.22). UK: Sheep, 173.48p per kgestdcw (+14.78). GB: Pigs, 67.73p per kglw (+1.04). England and Wales: Cattle numbers up 4.1 per cent, average price, 87.87p (+2.17). Sheep numbers down 2.6 per cent, average price, 168.93p (+9.22). Pig numbers down 2.4 per cent, average price, 67.82p (+1.24). Scotland: Cattle numbers up 0.7 per cent, average price, 89.38p (+2.43). Sheep numbers up 10.7 per cent, average price, 184.02p (+28.70). Pig numbers up 1.4 per cent, average price, 66.98p (—0.65).

POTATOES (Gafta).—April, £59.40; Nov, £57.20; Feb, £67.50. Sales: 233 lots (of 40 tonnes each).

EGGS (The London Egg Exchange).—Home-produced: A balanced market prevailed.

Imported: Higher values being asked.

Home-produced market prices (in £ per 120, based on trading packer/first-hand):

	Wed/Thur/Fri	Mon/Tues
Brown		
1s	4.80 to 5.40	5.00 to 5.40
2s	4.40 to 4.60	4.50 to 4.60
3s	4.20 to 4.30	4.30 to 4.40
4s	4.10 to 4.20	4.15 to 4.30
White		
1s	4.80 to 5.10	5.00 to 5.20
2s	4.30 to 4.50	4.40 to 4.60
3s	4.10 to 4.20	4.20 to 4.30
4s	4.00 to 4.10	4.10 to 4.20
5s	3.89 to 3.90	3.90 to 4.10
6s	3.60 to 3.70	3.70 to 3.85
7s	3.00 to 3.10	3.10 to 3.20

Imported prices (in £):

French brown	Current arrivals
1s	4.85 to 4.95
2s	4.30 to 4.40
3s	4.20 to 4.30

All prices quoted are for bulk delivery in Keyes trays. The above range is a guide to general market conditions and is dependent upon location, quality and whether delivered or not.

EUROPEAN ZINC PRODUCTION FALLS: Eindhoven, Feb 24.—European zinc production fell to 151,600 tonnes in January from December output revised downwards to 161,200 tonnes and compared with 152,900 tonnes in January, 1980, provisional Zinc Institute figures show.

Closing stocks of primary zinc at smelters rose to 158,000 tonnes from a slightly downward-revised 143,100 tonnes in December and compared with 137,000 tonnes in January, 1980.

Discount market

Once again, day-to-day credit was in full supply in the discount market yesterday and the houses ruled off their books without intervention by the Bank of England. Although money tended to move rather slowly, some houses had reached their target by lunchtime with bids generally at 13½ per cent, but occasionally down at 13¼ per cent. Closing balances were picked up in the area of 13¼ to 13½ per cent.

Foreign exchange report

Currencies had a very busy session yesterday, due to interest rate moves, actual and projected, economic indicators and comments by financial spokesmen. Nervous conditions remained and rates swung sharply at times as dealers endeavoured to adjust to new situations.

The mark took a leading role, moving between 2.1380 and 2.0865, before ending slightly lower at 2.1190 (2.1120) against the dollar following a hectic spell sparked off by the Bundesbank's decision to implement a special Lombard Rate today of 12 per cent (up three points from the old rate which was suspended in last week's support measures).

Dealers had been expecting an even higher rate in view of the sharp rise in "free" market rates and there was some rapid adjustments in Euromarks and forward positions.

Fresh falls in the Far East, still reflecting a three-point or more cut in prospect for MLR, pushed the pound down from the outset—and after periodic rallies, the currency closed at $2.2340.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) February 24	Market rates (close) February 24	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.2250-2525	$2.2335-2345	.40-.50c disc	2.28-2.38c disc
Montreal	$2.6680-6800	$2.6760-6770	.70-.80c disc	2.90-3.05c disc
Amsterdam	5.15-23fl	5.20-21fl	1½-½c prem	3-2c prem
Brussels	76.30-77.50f	77.15-25f	8c prem-2c disc	17-27c disc
Copenhagen	14.58-72k	14.63-65k	145ore prem-20ore d	380-545ore disc
Dublin	1.2690-2875p	1.2795-2815p	05-20p disc	45-65p disc
Frankfurt	4.87-77m	4.72½-73¼m	¼-1¼pf disc	¾-1¾pf disc
Lisbon	125.00-127.00e	125.30-60e	90c prem-30c disc	105c prem-130c d
Madrid	191.50-193.75p	192.20-30p	par-55c disc	175-235c disc
Milan	2255-80lr	2269-71lr	5¼-7¼lr disc	30½-39½lr disc
Oslo	12.00-10k	12.04-06k	85ore prem-45ore d	80-205ore disc
Paris	10.97-11.11f	11.09-10f	1½-½c prem	1-2c disc
Stockholm	10.26-34k	10.27-29k	275-355ore disc	1320-1420ore disc
Tokyo	460-70y	462-63y	195-140y prem	440-380y prem
Vienna	33.20-70sch	33.57-62sch	11-7gro prem	21-14gro prem
Zurich	4.25-31f	4.28-29f	2½-1¼c prem	5½-4½c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 0.9% to 99.5%.

Other Markets

Australia	1.9235-1.9385
Bahrein	0.8405-0.8435
Finland	9.0730-9.1130
Greece	111.75-113.75
Hongkong	11.8305-11.8705
Iran	Not available
Kuwait	0.6110-0.6140
Malaysia	5.0910-5.1210
Mexico	51.9-53.4
New Zealand	2.3085-2.4185
Saudi Arabia	7.4530-7.4830
Singapore	4.6675-4.6975
South Africa	1.7390-1.7540

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	99.5	−28.7
US dollar	99.8	−4.1
Canadian dollar	84.8	−18.5
Schilling	115.4	+22.7
Belgian franc	107.6	+8.8
Danish kroner	91.7	−9.4
Deutsche mark	120.1	+39.3
Swiss franc	135.1	+75.1
Guilder	112.6	+15.8
French franc	86.5	−9.5
Lira	61.5	−53.1
Yen	146.4	+42.4

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. (Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.7380-1.7400
† Canada	1.1982-1.1985
Netherlands	2.3300-2.3400
Belgium	34.45-34.55
Denmark	6.5700-6.5800
West Germany	2.1170-2.1210
Portugal	56.35-56.55
Spain	85.90-86.10
Italy	1015-1020
Norway	5.3800-5.3900
France	4.9700-4.9800
Sweden	4.5950-4.6050
Japan	206.95-207.15
Austria	14.95-15.05
Switzerland	1.9180-1.9230

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 : US $0.8343-0.8346

Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 14%

(Last changed 24/11/80)

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%

Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 13½ Low 13¼

Week Fixed: 14-13½

Treasury Bills (Dis %)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	12⅞	2 months	12⅞
3 months	11[illegible]	3 months	11⅞

Prime Bank Bills (Dis %) Trades (Dis %)

2 months	12[illegible]-12[illegible]	3 months	12½
3 months	11[illegible]-11[illegible]	4 months	12¼
4 months	11¾-11½	6 months	12
6 months	11½-11¼		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	14¼-14	7 months	12⅝-12⅛
2 months	13½-13¼	8 months	12⅝-12⅛
3 months	13½-13¼	9 months	12⅝-12½
4 months	12¾-12½	10 months	12⅝-12½
5 months	12¾-12½	11 months	12⅝-12½
6 months	12⅞-12½	12 months	12½-12¼

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month	13[illegible]-13[illegible]	6 months	12½-12
3 months	12[illegible]-12[illegible]	12 months	12[illegible]-11[illegible]

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14¼-14	3 months	13¼
7 days	14¼-14	6 months	12¼
1 month	13¾-13¼	1 year	12½

Interbank Market (%)
Overnight: Open 14¼-14½ Close 17

1 week	14¼-14	6 months	12[illegible]-12[illegible]
1 month	13½-13⅛	9 months	12[illegible]-12[illegible]
3 months	12¾-12¼	12 months	12¼-12

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate %)
3 months 12⅞ 6 months 12⅝

Finance House Base Rate 15%

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate†	% change adjusted† *	divergence limit % plus/minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.5597	+4.45	+1.15	1.53
Danish krone	7.7236	7.95203	+2.96	−0.34	1.64
German D-mark	2.48208	2.55523	+2.95	−0.35	1.125
French franc	5.84700	5.97436	+2.18	−1.12	1.3557
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.80996	+2.42	−0.88	1.512
Irish punt	0.668201	0.693220	+3.74	+0.44	1.665
Italian lira	1157.79	1225.03	+5.80	+2.50	4.08

† changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 16-17: seven days, 15-15½; one month, 15[illegible]-15[illegible]; three months, 16[illegible]-16[illegible]; six months, 16½-16¼.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $503.75 (an ounce); pm, $503 close, $501.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $517-520 (£232-233.50).
Sovereigns (new): $126-128 (£56.50-57.50).

Wall Street

New York, Feb 24.—Stocks on the New York Stock Exchange closed higher in moderate trading as the NYSE index rose 0.07 to 72.91 and the average price per share three cents.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.87 to 946.10 and advances led declines 862 to 614. Turnover quickened to 43,960,000 shares from 39,590,000 yesterday.

Active Owens-Illinois rose 1⅜ to 30⅛, International Paper 1⅜ to 44⅞, General Electric ⅜ to 65⅛, McDonald's 2⅛ to 56⅝, ex-dividend, and Litton Industries 1⅛ to 67⅞.

GK Technologies was up 3⅛ at 48⅞ and Penn Central up 1⅜ at 39⅞. Ralston Purina was 10⅞ off ⅜ in heavy trading that included blocks of 650,000 and 350,000 shares.

MCA Corporation closed at 47⅞ up ⅞. It reported lower fourth quarter and year earnings. Deere Company rose 1⅛ to 42⅞ ex-dividend.

The carmakers today reported on mid-February sales with only Chrysler posting a gain. General Motors was 48⅜ unchanged, Chrysler 5⅛ unchanged, Ford 19⅛ off ⅛ and American Motors 4 up ⅛.

	Feb 24	Feb 23
[illegible]		

Canadian Prices		
[illegible]		

* Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Foreign exchange.—Sterling, spot 2.2330 (2.2350); three months, 2.2555 (2.2556); Canadian dollar 1.1966 (1.1989).

The Dow Jones spot commodity index was 431.65 (429.88). The futures index was 433.43 (445.76).

The Dow Jones averages.—Industrials, 946.10 (945.23); transportation 385.01 (379.97); utilities 106.69 (107.02); 65 stocks, 361.69 (360.59). New York Stock Exchange index. Composite 72.91 (72.84); industrials, 85.04 (84.94); transportation, 71.37 (70.91); utilities, 37.21 (37.34); financial, 68.33 (68.00).

US commodities

SILVER futures eked out closing gains of nine to eight cents after fluctuating in a 20-cent range on mostly local ring interest.—Feb, 1,295.00c; March, 1,295.00-1,298.00c; April, 1,315.00c; May, 1,334.00-1,337.00c; July, 1,372.00c; Sept, 1,409.00c; Dec, 1,464.00c; Jan, 1,482.00c; March, 1,518.00c; May, 1,554.00c; July, 1,590.00c; Sept, 1,626.00c; Dec, 1,680.00c.

GOLD futures were: CHICAGO IMM.—April, $591.00 bid; June, $604.50 bid; July, $611.30 bid; Sept, $624.80 bid; Oct, $631.60 bid; Dec, $645.30 bid; Jan, $652.10 bid; March, $665.90 bid; April, $672.80 bid. NY COMEX.—Feb, $506.50-508.00; March, $505.80; April, $510.00-511.50; June, $523.50-525.00; Aug, $537.70; Oct, $551.00; Dec, $562.50-565.00; Feb, $577.70; April, $591.10; June, $604.50; Aug, $618.00; Oct, $631.50; Dec, $646.10.

COPPER futures closed mostly near midsession levels, settling 0.80 to 0.90 cent higher in nearbys and 0.45 to 0.75 cent ahead in deferred months. Trendsetting May ended at 84.95 cents while February expired at 82.25 cents. Feb, 82.25c; March, 82.30-82.35c; April, 83.65c; May, 84.80-85.10c; July, 87.30-87.60c; Sept, 89.90c; Dec, 92.55c; Jan, 93.40c; March, 95.35c; May, 97.05c; July, 98.75c; Sept, 100.45c; Dec, 103.00c.

SUGAR futures held closing losses of 0.25 to 0.34 cent. March ended unchanged at 24.79 cents a pound after fluctuating in a wide 1.10 cent range, between 25.40 and 24.30 cents. March, 24.75-24.80c; May, 24.85-24.95c; July, 24.90-25.00c; Sept, 24.35-24.40c; Oct, 24.00-24.10c; Jan, 23.16c; March, 22.85-22.95c; May, 22.65 bid-22.85c asked; July, 25.25c.

COTTON futures closed slightly above day's lows with losses of 2.00c in spot March at 88.96c and of 1.42c to 1.02c in other nearbys. March, 88.80-89.10c; May, 90.80-91.05c; July, 90.70-90.80c; Oct, 86.00c; Dec, 82.80-82.90c; March, 83.50 bid-8.00c asked; May, 84.00 bid-84.50c asked; July, 84.50 bid-85.25c asked.

COCOA futures ended an actively traded session with gains of $28 to $57 while spot March settled $72 higher at $1,965. March, $1,980-1,888; May, $2,045-1,965; July, $2,110-2,032; Sept, $2,130-2,087; Dec, $2,185-2,175; March, $2,260-2,250; May, $2,315-2,315.

COFFEE futures closed an erratic session slightly above day's lows, up 0.68 cent in spot March at 122.43 cents a lb and down 0.53 to up 0.12 cent in other positions. March, 122.40-122.45c; May, 126.25-126.40c; July, 129.35-129.50c; Sept, 131.70c; Dec, 131.00-131.20c; March, 129.50 bid-130.00c asked; May, 130.25 bid-131.75c asked; July, 131.50 bid-140.00c asked.

CHICAGO SOYABEANS.—Futures ended 1¼ cents a bushel higher to down 4½ cents. Prices settled at or near the bottom of an 11 cent range with most contracts posting losses. Oil settled 0.05c to 0.55c a lb lower. Meal finished $1.10 a ton lower to unchanged. SOYABEANS.—March, 763-755c; May, 790-779c; July, 814-804c; Aug, 820½-811½c; Sept, 828-819c; Nov, 840-850½c; Jan, 858-849c; March, 878-870½c. SOYABEAN OIL.—March, 24.08-24.05c; May, 24.90-24.87c; July, 25.72-25.70c; Aug, 26.00c; Sept, 26.20c; Oct, 26.45c; Dec, 27.05c; Jan, 27.05 bid-27.10c asked; March, 27.60 bid-27.65c asked; May, 27.96 bid-28.00c asked. SOYABEAN MEAL.—March, $214.80-214.50; May, $224.01-225.50; July, $230.77-231.50; Aug, $234.00; Sept, $237.00; Oct, $238.00; Dec, $242.00 bid-242.50 asked; Jan, $245.00 bid.

CHICAGO GRAINS.—Wheat futures closed on the bottom of a ten cent range, down four to 7½ cents a bushel in mostly local trade. Corn futures finished fractionally higher in the first two contracts to down 3¼c a bushel. Prices settled near to bottom of a 3c range. WHEAT.—March, 467-457½c; May, 481½-471½c; July, 480½-472c; Sept, 495-487c; Dec, 518-504c; March, 536-526c. CORN.—March, 363-36[illegible]c; May, 375-371¼c; July, 383-378½c; Sept, 379½-374½c; Dec, 379-373½c; March, 389-383c. OATS.—March, 239¾-227¼c; May, 226½-22[illegible]c; July, 218½-216c; Sept, 219-217½c; Dec, 226-222½c.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]					

Law Report February 24 1981 — House of Lords

Certainty vital in commercial contracts

The Chikuma

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Scarman and Lord Bridge of Harwich

[Speeches delivered February 19]

The House of Lords once again stressed the importance of certainty in all commercial transactions when they held that a telex transfer of the monthly hire due under a time charterparty included two words which in accordance with Italian inter-bank practice had the effect of postponing for a few days the shipowners' unconditional right to the immediate use of the funds transferred. As a result the transfer was not "punctual payment" of the hire "in cash", and the shipowners became entitled to withdraw the vessel, as they did, from the service of the charterers.

Their Lordships allowed an appeal by Italian shipowners, Fulvia SpA di Navigazione of Cagliari, from the Court of Appeal (the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice Dunn) (*The Times*, June 10, 1980), which had allowed an appeal by Norwegian charterers, A/S Awilco, of Oslo, from Mr Justice Robert Goff ([1979] 1 Lloyd's Rep. 367) on a dispute arising out of the payment of hire of a vessel, the Chikuma, under a time charter. The Court of Appeal had restored the conclusion of a City of London commercial arbitrator that the Norwegian charterers had punctually paid the 81st instalment of monthly hire on the due date, and that the owners were not entitled to withdraw the vessel from the charterers' service as they had done, by reason only of what the Court of Appeal considered no more than Italian inter-banking practice after the payment had been made.

Mr Christopher Staughton, QC, and Mr V. V. Veeder for the owners; Mr R. A. Leggatt, QC, and Mr Roger Buckley, QC, for the charterers.

LORD BRIDGE, with whose speech Lord Diplock, Lord Simon, Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Scarman concurred, said that the appeal arose from a dispute under the terms of a time charterparty in the New York Produce Exchange form to which at the material time the appellants were parties as owners of the Chikuma and the respondents as charterers. By clause 5 of the charterparty, payment of the hire was "to be made ... in cash in United States currency, monthly in advance ... otherwise failing the punctual and regular payment of the hire ... the owners shall be at liberty to withdraw the vessel from the service of the charterers. ..." An addendum provided for all freights to be paid to the owners' agents, care of the owners' bank in Genoa.

On January 24, 1976, the owners withdrew the vessel from the service of the charterers on the ground that they had failed to pay the monthly instalment of hire due on January 22. The charterers disputed the alleged failure and in due course claimed damages for wrongful withdrawal of the ship. That claim was referred to arbitration by Mr Donald Davies as sole arbitrator. On a preliminary issue he was requested and agreed to state an interim award in the form of a special case, on the assumption that a monthly instalment of hire fell due on or before January 22 in the sum of $68,863.84.

The arbitrator, having set out his primary findings of fact, held that the charterers had paid the appropriate sum on the due date in accordance with the contract and that the owners were therefore not entitled to withdraw the vessel when they did. Mr Justice Robert Goff reversed that conclusion, and the Court of Appeal restored the arbitrator's decision.

Before January, 1976, monthly payments of hire had always been made punctually by credit transfer to the owners' bank. On January 21, 1976, the charterers instructed their Norwegian bank to make the required payment by credit transfer. On Thursday, January 22, at 11.41am, on instructions from the Norwegian bank, Credito Italiano, Genoa, sent a telex to the owners' bank: "Pay without expenses for us USA $68,863.84 [by] order Christiania Bank ... Oslo for account A/S Awilco in favour SASDA SPA ... your good selves re: Chikuma stop [We] telecover you value 26 through Chase Manhattan Bank New York account yours of Turin stop".

That was a translation from the original Italian, the words in square brackets being agreed as producing a more accurate version than the English text used in the courts below, though nothing turned on that. The telex had not been exhibited to the special case by the arbitrator, but it was agreed before the judge that it should be treated as an exhibit. That was sensible, for without seeing the telex it would be difficult to understand the arbitrator's crucial findings of fact set out in the following two paragraphs:

"4. By a telex message ... on ... January 22, there was a credit transfer to the owners' bank of US dollars 68,863.84 representing the 81st payment of hire. At about noon on the same day the said credit transfer became irrevocable under Italian banking law and practice and the funds representing the 81st payment ... became available to the owners' bank for payment to the owners although interest on those funds would not begin to run in favour of the owners' bank until Monday, January 26.

"5. On January 22, the owners' bank credited the owners' account with US dollars 68,863.84 (representing the 81st payment of hire) and under Italian banking law and practice, the owners had the immediate use of the said sum even though interest on the sum would not begin to run in favour of the owners until Monday, January 26. If the owners had withdrawn the said sum from their bank on January 22 (which was not the case although they had the right so to do) they would probably have incurred a liability to their bank to pay interest on the sum until January 26."

It was further found that, on the owners' instructions, their bank retransferred the amount of the transfer to Credito Italiano on January 23.

The arbitrator posed as the question of law for the court: "Whether the ... owners were entitled to withdraw the vessel on Saturday, January 24, 1976, under clause 5 of the charterparty."

Under the heading "Award", he wrote: "Subject to the decision of the court, I hold that:—1. There was a payment to the owners, by the charterers, of US dollars 68,863.84 on Thursday, January 22, 1976. 2. On the assumption that hire in the above sum was due on January 22 the owners were not entitled to withdraw the vessel on Saturday, January 24, under clause 5 of the charterparty."

His Lordship concluded from those extracts that the arbitrator was treating the question he had to resolve as a pure question of law depending on the true construction of the contractual provision applicable. His award as set out did not purport to be other than a conclusion of law and, in particular, there was no indication in the special case, either on the basis of expert evidence or by applying his own knowledge as a very experienced commercial arbitrator, he was attaching to any of the contractual words any special technical meaning.

Two general observations should be made about the facts. First, the effect of the telex from Credito Italiano to the owners' bank seemed, in the light of the findings in paragraphs 4 and 5, to produce a situation, in accordance with Italian banking law and practice, which, in the eyes of an English banker or lawyer, had some strikingly unusual features. It was a situation hardly likely to trouble the English courts again unless as a result of a similar Italian inter-bank transaction.

Secondly, if the owners were right, the present was yet another instance of a clause like clause 5 of the form operating to produce what appeared to be a harsh result. The unexpired term of the time charter must have been a valuable asset. The Court of Appeal had been told that the charterers' claim for damages was $3m. Yet their failure, if there was a failure, to comply with their obligation under clause 5 was obviously of a very minor character.

It was not the first time that clause 5 of the New York Produce Exchange form of charterparty had been before the court. In *The Brimnes* ([1973] 1 WLR, 386, 400) Mr Justice Brandon had said of it: "... the words '[' payment ... in cash'] in clause 5 must be interpreted against the background of modern commercial practice ... they cannot mean only payment in dollar bills or other legal tender of the United States. They must, as the owners contend, have a wider meaning, comprehending any commercially recognized method of transferring funds the result of which is to give the transferee the unconditional right to the immediate use of the funds transferred."

In the instant case, the test enunciated in the last sentence had been adopted and applied both by the judge and the Court of Appeal. But it led them to opposite conclusions. The judge said: "Here, the money took the form of a telex transfer and the telex transfer had attached to it ... a condition embodied in the words 'value 26' ... the effect of the imposition of that condition was to render it a payment which did not give the transferee the unconditional right to the immediate use of the funds transferred ... It is as though the cash was handed over the counter *on Thursday and at the time of its transfer* a condition was attached to it—that if it was made available to the beneficiary immediately, interest would be payable until the Monday, and if it was not made available to him immediately, interest would not accrue to him until the Monday ... In my judgment ... one cannot ignore the power of money to breed interest. To do so is to ignore an essential attribute of money itself."

The Court of Appeal reached the conclusion that the owners' right to the immediate use of the funds was unconditional. Their main grounds appeared to be (1) that the last sentence of the telex containing the crucial words "value 26" was an interbanking arrangement which did not affect the rights of the owners; (2) that the arbitrator had found as a fact, or on a mixed question of fact and law, that the owners' right was unconditional and there was evidence to support such a finding; (3) that the stipulation as to interest imposed no true condition.

His Lordship considered the first two grounds unsound. On (1), Credito Italiano, as subagents of the charterers, effected the transfer on terms which deferred the right of the owners' bank to the enjoyment of the funds to January 26. It was a plainly foreseeable consequence of the deferment that it would be, as it was, reflected in the terms which the owners' bank would be entitled to impose on the owners' use of the funds between January 22 and 26. As to (2), the word "unconditional" nowhere appeared in the special case.

The third ground depended on the interpretation of "unconditional" in the context of Mr Justice Brandon's statement of principle in *The Brimnes*. If the word was understood in its narrow legal sense as meaning that the transferee's right to the use of the funds transferred was neither subject to the fulfilment of a condition precedent nor defeasible on failure to fulfil a condition subsequent, his Lordship could see that the owners' right to the use of the funds on January 22 could be described as unconditional.

But the judge obviously understood it in a much wider and more liberal sense as equivalent to unfettered or unrestricted. In his Lordship's view, when payment was made to a bank otherwise than literally in cash—in dollar bills or other legal tender (which no one expected)—there was no "payment in cash" within the meaning of clause 5 unless what the creditor received was the equivalent of cash, or as good as cash. That was supported both by the common sense of the matter and by the Court of Appeal judgments affirming the decision of Mr Justice Brandon in *The Brimnes* ([1975] QB 929).

The book entry made by the owners' bank on January 22 in the owners' account was clearly not the equivalent of cash, nor was there any reason why the owners should have been prepared to treat it as the equivalent of cash. It could not be used to earn interest, for example, by immediate transfer to a deposit account. It could only be drawn subject to a (probable) liability to pay interest. In substance it was the equivalent of an overdraft facility which the bank was bound to make available. The finding of a probable liability to pay interest must connote a right in the owners' bank to charge interest, which was the decisive factor.

It followed, in his Lordship's view, that on January 22 there was no "payment in cash" by the charterers of the hire then assumed to be due, and accordingly the owners, having refused to accept the credit as payment in accordance with clause 5, were entitled to withdraw the ship on January 24.

In the Court of Appeal it was calculated that the interest on the monthly instalment of hire from January 22 to January 26 would have been $70 or $100. That encouraged Lord Denning to say: "It seems to me that that *trifling bank charge, if it had* been exacted, would not have affected the nature of the payment which had already been made. The credit was available to the owners, in their bank, as from midday on Thursday. The owners had the full use of it. It was unconditional. The mere debiting of a trifling bank charge would not make it conditional."

His Lordship did not know if the emphasis on the word "*trifling*" was *intended* to invoke and apply the de minimis principle. No such point had been taken for the charterers in the House; but the de minimis principle could certainly not be invoked in the instant case to excuse failure to make punctual payment in cash under clause 5.

Earlier exercises of judicial ingenuity to mitigate the rigours of clauses in charterparties giving to shipowners a right to withdraw *their ships on failure* or default in payment of hire or freight had not had a happy history. One such attempt had been the Court of Appeal decision in *The Georgios C* ([1971] 1 QB 485) which gave rise to much difficulty and uncertainty until it was overruled by the House in *The Laconia* ([1977] AC 850).

It had often been pointed out that shopowners and charterers bargained at arm's length. Neither class had such a preponderance of bargaining power as to be in a position to oppress the other. They should be in a position to look after themselves by contracting only on terms acceptable to them. Where, as here, they embodied in their contracts common form clauses, it was of overriding importance that their meaning and legal effect should be certain and well understood. The ideal at which the courts should aim, in construing such clauses, was to produce a result, such that in any given situation both parties seeking legal advice as to their rights and obligations could expect the same clear and confident answer from their advisers, and neither would be tempted to embark on long and expensive litigation in the belief that victory depended on winning the sympathy of the court. That ideal might never be fully attainable, but we should certainly never even approximate to it unless we strove to follow clear and consistent principles and steadfastly refuse to be blown off course by the supposed merits of individual cases.

His Lordship would allow the appeal, restore the order of Mr Justice Robert Goff, and order the charterers to pay the owners' costs in the House and the Court of Appeal.

Solicitors: Richards, Butler & Co; Sinclair, Roche & Temperley.

No self-dismissal by holidaying employee

London Transport Executive v Clarke

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Dunn

[Judgments delivered February 18]

The common law rule that a contract is determined by the acceptance of repudiatory conduct and not by the repudiatory conduct itself applies to contracts of employment, so that where an employee, having been refused permission for six weeks' unpaid leave in order to go to Jamaica on family business, nevertheless went without permission, he was to be regarded, not as having dismissed himself, but as having been dismissed by the employers when they wrote to inform him that his name had been removed from their books. But a decision by an industrial tribunal that the employee had been unfairly dismissed was, in the circumstances, a decision which no reasonable tribunal could have reached.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the employers, London Transport Executive, from a judgment of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, affirming the decision of an industrial tribunal that the employee, Mr Langford Clarke, had been unfairly dismissed by the employers.

Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, and Mr Christopher Carling for *London Transport; Mr Eldred Tabachnik* for the employee.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the employee, who was born in Jamaica, liked to go back to Jamaica whenever he could. In 1977 he had received leave for two months, but had stayed for four months, sending a medical certificate to excuse his absence. In 1978 he was off work for two and a half months, saying he was sick. In 1979 he applied for leave again to go to Jamaica for six weeks, from February 28 to April 12. It was refused. Such leave was usually only granted once in three years. He had renewed his application. Still it had been refused. He asked what would happen if he just took off, and the personnel officer said that his name would be removed from the books.

Despite that warning he went. He returned seven weeks later, bringing a medical certificate, given by a medical officer in *Jamaica dated March 2, 1979*, saying that he was unfit to carry on his duties for 49 days from February 28, 1979. It was indeed surprising. His illness would last for the exact time of his holiday.

While he was away London Transport sent letters to him at his London address. The first asked for an explanation of his absence; the second warned that if no reply was received within 14 days it would be assumed that he did not wish to continue in his employment; the third, on March 26, said that his name had been permanently removed from the books.

His wife had replied saying that her husband did not intend to give up his job and would be back in April.

When he was refused his job back he complained to the industrial tribunal. They found that he was unfairly dismissed, even though it had been largely brought about by his own action, and decided that he should be re-engaged. London Transport refused.

When and by whom was his contract of employment terminated?

Nowadays people seemed to think that a contract was never discharged by breach, no matter how fundamental, unless it was accepted by the other side. That was a mistake. It was the result of the modern phraseology about "anticipatory breach". A repudiation by words only, a party saying that he would not perform a future obligation, an anticipatory breach, was a thing "writ in water". It was as nothing unless and until accepted. But a repudiatory breach was better described as a "fundamental breach" or a "breach going to the root of the contract". Such a breach might *well lead to the discharge of* a contract without any need for acceptance: *Poussard v Spiers* ((1876) 1 QBD 410).

Under section 54 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act, 1978, when an employee was dismissed for misconduct the court had to ask who terminated the contract. There was much difference of opinion among the judges on that question. It was desirable for the *Court of* Appeal to afford some guidance. It was best done by applying the common law principles just stated. The cases fell into two groups.

The first was where the conduct of the employee was such that it was completely inconsistent with the continuance of the contract of employment, so that the ordinary member of an industrial tribunal would say that he sacked himself. In those cases the employee terminated the contract.

The second was where the misconduct of the employee was bad enough to justify the employer in dismissing him, but left it open to the employer whether to dismiss him or not. If the employer elected to dismiss him it was the employer who terminated the contract.

In the present case the employee had dismissed himself. He had terminated the contract of employment when he took off for a seven weeks' holiday in Jamaica just as much as if he had taken off for a highly paid job there, or for another job and after seven weeks disliked *it* and returned asking for his job back. The employer could not be expected to keep his job open after conduct of that kind.

If that was wrong, and the employer had terminated the contract by taking his name off the books on March 26, the burden was on the employer to satisfy the tribunal that the dismissal was fair. The industrial tribunal had found that the employee's absence without leave was not a sufficient reason for dismissing *him*. It was impossible to overturn their reasoning.

In the circumstances of the case all the members of the court felt that the employee should not be awarded compensation. The only legitimate way of achieving that result was to say that the employee dismissed himself. The appeal should be allowed accordingly.

LORD JUSTICE TEMPLEMAN said that the general rule was that a repudiated contract was not terminated unless and until the repudiation was accepted by the innocent party: *Boston Deep Sea Fishing and Ice Co Ltd v Ansell* ((1888) 39 ChD 339). That case provided an illustration that contracts of employment could not provide a general exemption to the rule because it would be manifestly unjust to allow a wrongdoer to determine a contract by repudiatory breach if the innocent party wished to affirm the contract for good reason. Repudiation could not determine a contract of service or any other contract while there existed a reason and an opportunity for the innocent party to affirm the contract.

There was no reason why a contract of employment or services should be determined by repudiation and not by acceptance of repudiation at common law. The argument had little practical importance at common law. A difficulty arose under the Act of 1978 if Mr Scrivener's argument of a special category of determination of a contract by self-dismissal. An industrial tribunal had first to *decide whether the employee's* breach of contract was repudiatory, and then whether the repudiatory act was of a special kind which amounted to self-dismissal. If those matters were decided in favour of the employer then the tribunal were not authorized to consider whether the employer's refusal to affirm the contract was fair or unfair, unless the employee was able to establish conduct on the part of the employer which converted self-dismissal into constructive dismissal.

Those complications arose if there was grafted on to the old common law rule that a repudiated contract was only terminated by acceptance an exception in the case of contracts of employment. Any such exception was contrary to principle, unsupported by authority binding on the Court of Appeal and undesirable in practice. The acceptance by an employer of repudiation by an employee who wished to continue his employment nothwithstanding that his repudiatory conduct was tantamount to dismissal by the employer, and it was logical that the employer should be required to satisfy the tribunal that he acted reasonably in treating the repudiatory conduct as sufficient reason for accepting the repudiation.

A finding that London Transport, either on *March 26*, when they removed the employee from their books, or on the date when their letter reached him, unfairly dismissed him would be a finding that outraged common sense. The suggestion that London Transport were under a duty on March 26 to hold their hand and wait and see whether and when the employee returned to this country and whether he had any more excuses for his conduct was fanciful. The task of a tribunal was not to find every possible excuse for a finding of unfair dismissal. The tribunal appeared to have thought that the letter from the employee's wife should have disposed London Transport to postpone a final decision until the employee returned. In that letter she had confirmed that he would not be returning until the middle of April and gave no adequate reason why he should insist on taking the very length of absence *rejected by London Transport*.

The tribunal also appeared to have given no weight to the fact that if London Transport had waited until the employee had come back it would still have been fair to dismiss him.

The decision of the tribunal could not be justified. The appeal should be allowed accordingly.

LORD JUSTICE DUNN, agreeing with the reasons given by Lord Justice Templeman, said that it followed that previous decisions of the Employment Appeal Tribunal to the effect that the contract of employment was terminated by the repudiation of the employee and not by the acceptance of the employer were wrongly decided. Those decisions were *Gannon v J. C. Firth Ltd* ([1976] IRLR 415) and *Kallinos v London Electric Wire* ([1980] IRLR 11).

Solicitors: Solicitor, London Transport Executive; Pattinson & Brewer.

Shropshire says inflation economics bring benefits

From Arthur Osman
Shrewsbury

Government suggestions that local authorities should publish annual reports and financial statements have been taken up by a handful of the 47 shire counties in England and Wales. One such is Shropshire.

A four-page report by Mr E. C. J. Whittingham, chairman of Shropshire County Council, presents a bleak picture of employment prospects but makes more cheerful reading when it discusses the county's services.

It speaks of a "tragically high" level of unemployment, particularly at Telford new town, where the jobless rate is 18.1 per cent for males and 13.3 per cent for females. That is the highest percentage in the West Midlands.

On Friday the county council will be asked to press the Government to grant special development area status to the areas around Madeley, Oakengates and Wellington.

But Mr Whittingham's review, which covers the past four years, emphasizes that the county's fabric of services is not falling apart.

Inflation economics had enabled habits of mind and approach developed over the years to be applied to the task of achieving reductions "without damaging the main fabric of services".

Shropshire's population increase was the second highest of the 47 counties and the necessary extra expenditure over the four years would have added £13.4m to the county's budget.

But "by better management, greater efficiency and trimming services" savings of £9.6m had been made over that period to offset the increase.

"Notwithstanding these additional services, the county precept has at the same time remained about or below average for English and Welsh counties."

The council continued to provide this year services looking after 68,000 children

Plea for murder charges against policemen fails

An application to have two policemen charged with the murder of Gail Kinchin, the Birmingham siege victim, was rejected yesterday by Mr John Milward, the Birmingham stipendiary magistrate.

Mr Ashraf Karim, a London solicitor, for David Keith Pagett, who is charged with the murder of the girl, applied in chambers for summonses to be issued against two police officers.

After the hearing Mr Karim said the application had been refused without prejudice to any future application.

Mr Pagett, aged 31, of Deelands Road, Rubery, Birmingham is due to face trial at Birmingham Crown Court on March 3 on charges alleging the murder of the girl, the attempted murder of Detective Sergeant Thomas Sartain and Detective Constable Gerald Richards and her stepfather, and the abduction of the girl and her mother.

Naval surgeon who drank with ratings dismissed ship

A naval surgeon who was said to have drunk with junior ratings in a public house and urged them to call him by his first name was ordered at a court martial at Devonport yesterday to be dismissed his ship.

Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander Richard Wingate, aged 35, an eye specialist at the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth, who lives at the shore-based HMS Drake, was also ordered to forfeit all seniority of rank.

The court was told that Cdr Wingate cuffed the ratings gently on the shoulder or head if they called him "Sir". He was accused of eight offences under the Naval Discipline Act.

He pleaded guilty to four charges: failing to conduct himself in an orderly manner so as to show an example to those subject to his command; failing to discourage over-indulgence of alcohol by Navy personnel both on board and ashore; conduct to the prejudice of good order and naval discipline in entertaining ratings in his cabin; and breaking wardroom mess rules by having a bottle of whisky in his cabin.

The court accepted his pleas of not guilty to three charges of indecently assaulting a male medical assistant and one of disgraceful conduct of an indecent kind.

Lieutenant-Commander Simon Stone, for the prosecution, said that in the Swan public house in Devonport on November 14 Cdr Wingate was introduced by Petty Officer John Heslop to four medical ratings.

He added: "Petty Officer Heslop introduced his companions to him on first name terms, referring to the accused as 'Dick'. Far from rectifying this over-familiarity, the accused made a point of chiding the junior ratings if they called him 'Sir', cuffing them gently on the shoulder or head."

Cdr Wingate said in evidence: "I feel very chastened. I was clearly over-familiar. I should have stayed my distance." He denied that he had cuffed the ratings



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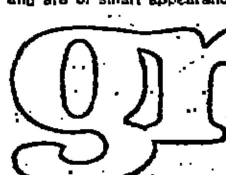
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BUSINESS, EDUCATIONAL AND LEISURE COURSES

Getting a different class of pupil at the crammers

Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent, on the healthy state of private further education

The mid-Seventies growth in "crammers", more politely known as private tutorial or sixth-form colleges, has ended. The combination of the recession, inflation, a strong pound, and the new high fees for overseas students in universities and polytechnics has taken its toll. But independent further education continues to be surprisingly healthy.

Overseas students have fallen off. Gabbitas-Thring, the leading consultants on independent education, say their inquiries from overseas students have dropped by nearly a half over the last two years. But this seems to have been compensated for in part by an increase in interest from home students, including a growing number from state schools though the majority still come from independent schools.

Mr John Murrell, senior managing governor of Gabbitas-Thring, says there has been a tremendous change in the type of pupils coming to them for advice over the last decade. It used to be thought that there was something distinctly odd about a bright child leaving an orthodox public school at 16 to go to a "crammer". Now it was a fairly regular and accepted practice.

Crammers have always been a refuge for the misfits and the rebels of the public school system; for those who have been expelled, have failed their exams, or can no longer tolerate the petty rules, school uniforms, and domineering attitude of their teachers. But now those who want to do well in the academic race are coming too.

"An awful lot of children don't want to do drama, play in the hockey team, taken general studies, or be a prefect. They want to concentrate on their academic studies so as to get good grades in order to get into their preferred university on the subject of their choice", Mr Murrell says, and a crammer allows them to do just that to the detriment, no doubt, of their overall education.

But crammers are not what they were, and perhaps therefore no longer deserve that name. They normally require students to spend at least one full year on A levels, often longer. While they used to cater mainly for pupils who had failed their examinations, they now increasingly get pupils who are studying for their A levels from scratch; those students now form about half the total in the big London establishments. Many go on to use crammers as a successful launching pad to Oxbridge.

Dr Rolf Schröder, principal of Davies, Laing and Dick in London, says that up to about 10 years ago it was possible to get someone through some A level subjects in six weeks. That kind of cramming was now out of the question. The examinations, in his opinion had become more sophisticated and difficult.

The student was now required to show a wider knowledge and deeper understanding of the subject. The introduction of multiple choice questions had meant that students could no longer afford to miss out large chunks of the syllabus, as a single multiple choice question could well span the whole syllabus.

While there is always a steady trickle of pupils from the best public schools like Eton, Winchester, Westminster, and St Paul's, most of the crammers' clientele come from the smaller, less well-known, independent schools where sixth forms may be very small with a severely limited choice of A level subjects, poor facilities particularly in science, and an inadequately trained staff who sometimes find it difficult to take pupils up to standard required for A level, let alone Oxbridge entrance.

However, a growing proportion of students at crammers are coming from state comprehensive schools. They now account for a fifth of the 600-plus pupils at Davies's, for example, the largest of the London tutorial establishments. Davies's have just opened a new annexe, which have enabled them to increase their student enrolments by a quarter this year, and they are still oversubscribed in many subjects.

Last summer, Gabbitas-Thring decided to advertise their services for crammers extensively throughout the country, although the independent tutorial establishments are concentrated almost entirely in London, along the south coast, and in Oxford, Cambridge and Birmingham.

The number of inquiries they received about crammers in the four weeks between the publication of GCE results and the start of the autumn term leapt by a half to 1,400, including a large proportion from state schools. Most of the increase came from the kind of people who had never approached Gabbitas-Thring before, many living in the industrial north and the midlands.

The inquiries from less well-off families are surprising, as fees for independent colleges tend to be high, many being comparable with the most expensive public schools.

Captain Harry Brierley, secretary to the Conference for Independent Further Education (CIFE) which represents 24 of the best year-round establishments in the field, says that their fees for a full-time A level course run from around £1,500 a year to £3,000 for tuition alone, and from around £2,500 to more than £4,000 for boarding education.

There are cheaper places, but potential clients should be wary of going to a college which does not belong to an organization such as CIFE or which is not specifically recommended by consultants who know the field well such as Gabbitas-Thring. There are several second-rate establishments around as well as a few downright dishonest set-ups.

Last year, as part of its effort to cut public expenditure, the Government decided to stop inspecting independent colleges of further education with a view to recognizing them as "efficient" — the official stamp of approval. There are estimated to be around 700 independent establishments in Britain, only 150 of which are recognized as efficient.

CIFE, which has its own code of standards and which has been carrying out its own inspection of members for some years, now plans to step into the breach and extend those activities. The conference does not cover English language schools, however.

The Association of Recognized English Language Schools (Arels) has 105 members covering virtually all full-time English language schools which are recognized as efficient. It is now negotiating with the British Council to see whether it will take over the Government's inspectorial role. The council is the main "agent" for the schools in foreign countries.

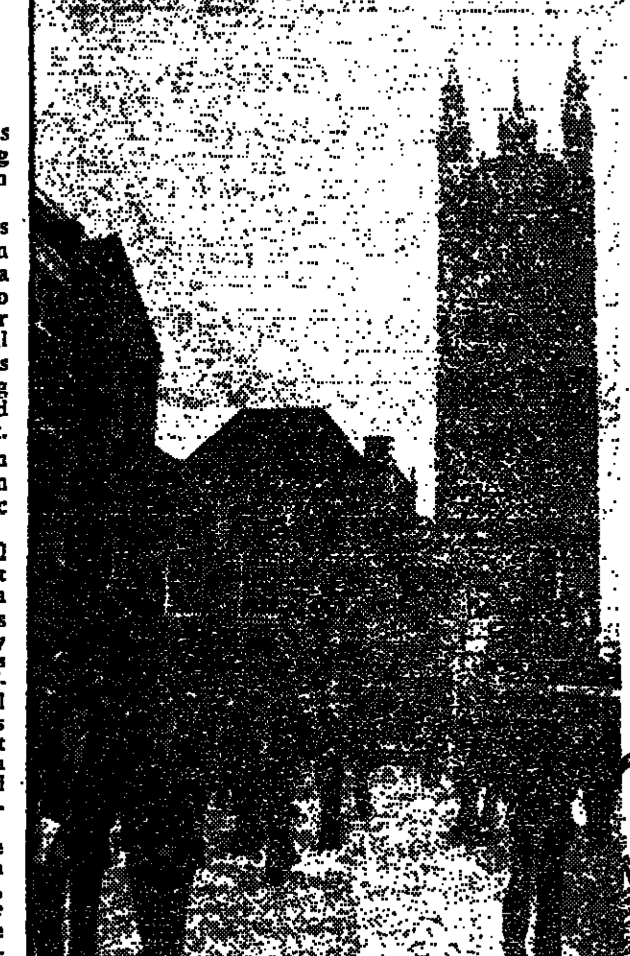
More than 80,000 foreign students enrolled in Arels schools in 1979, bringing with them nearly £50 million in foreign exchange.

Tuition fees for Arels schools this year range from around £35 per week for a general English course to more than £100 per week for an "executive professional course". In addition, costs for full board, excluding tuition, range from around £70 to nearly £300 a week.

Arels runs its own scholarship scheme based on need rather than academic criteria.

Captain R. Arthur, general secretary of Arels, says that although there has been a downturn in applications from foreign students, only a couple of their members were finding life really difficult, and some were still having to turn students away. They were confident for the future; there was a growing world-wide demand for English language teaching, he said.

Arels does not include the language schools which operate short courses only, mostly in the summer. Those are represented by the Federation of English Language Course Organizers, which has 81 members.


Westminster: only a trickle for the crammers.

See page 27

La Crème de la Crème

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Property

Advantages of converted old mansions

Last week I noted the advantages in room size and proportions offered by sections of old country mansions converted into smaller units. An added advantage arises when the original building is of outstanding architectural merit and provides a setting on a scale beyond normal domestic expectations.

One such conversion is Charlton Park, near Malmesbury, Wiltshire. It is a Jacobean house, with some alterations made in the 1770s to designs by the younger Brettingham, and has a grade one listing as being of special architectural or historic interest.

One notable feature is the domed great hall, originally an open central courtyard enclosed as part of the Georgian alterations, and painstakingly restored to form the main entrance hall. The conversion of the building provides a total of 18 units, comprising flats, maisonettes and tower houses, ranging from one to four bedrooms.

Many of the rooms have retained their Jacobean or Georgian characteristics. Around the house there are common grounds of 25 acres, and some of the ground floor units have small private gardens. Leases of 99 years are being offered at prices between £58,000 and £105,000. Information can be obtained from Period and Country Houses, Limited, 61 Harcourt Terrace, London SW10 9JP.

The Old House, Blandford Forum, Dorest, also has a grade one listing, although on a much smaller scale. It is believed to be one of the oldest houses in the town and one of the relatively few to have survived the widespread fires which swept the town in the early part of the eighteenth century.

It seems to have been built between 1650 and 1670 by a German doctor who practised in the area. It is brick built, but has a pair of unusual decorative chimney stacks which emerge from the roof ridges.

Some alterations were made in the nineteenth century. The accommodation is extensive and includes a reception hall, two other reception rooms, an extensive basement with store rooms and a wine cellar, a main bedroom suite and six further bedrooms. Behind, there is a walled garden. Offers about £85,000 are being asked through Savills' Wimborne office.


Charlton Park, near Malmesbury, Wiltshire, now providing 18 separate homes.

In the same part of the country is The Old Malthouse, in Marnhull, near Sturminster Newton, Dorset. This, too, dates basically from the middle of the seventeenth century, with additions made at the end of the eighteenth century and later. It has stone walls, partly colour washed, and a tiled roof.

Accommodation in the main part of the house includes two reception rooms, a study, a main bedroom, bathroom and dressing room suite, together with six further bedrooms and another two bathrooms. More space is provided in a self-contained annexe or leisure wing.

This is on two floors with the main part of the ground floor given over to a single large room nearly 27ft long and more than 18ft wide, and a sauna and shower room, with a large games room and a studio above. The garden covers about two acres and the property is for sale at about £100,000 through Pearsons, of Salisbury.

An even older property is The Stone House, in Steyning, Sussex, in which the huge flint walls of the base structure, some three feet thick, are thought to be early fourteenth century. Apart from the church, it is thought to be the oldest property in the town. Additions and alterations have, of course, been made over the years, but a feature is a fine closely-timbered overhanging gable which may also be of medieval origin.

The house is in the High Street, likely to be relieved of much traffic when the by-pass is opened this summer, and has a fairly large garden and a garage. It has a large reception hall, two reception rooms and a sun room, as well as a roomy basement.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a dressing room and two bathrooms. The asking price is about £85,000, through Churchman Burt and Son, of Steyning.

In the tradition of its locality is The Old Manor House, at Alfold, Surrey, an old Wealden farmhouse with some interesting early architectural features. It was built as a medieval hall house about the middle of the sixteenth century, but two studded bays and an unusually large inglenook were added in the seventeenth century.

The construction is part timber framed, and partly of brick with tile hanging to the upper part, and the house has a grade two listing. There are two main reception rooms, a large study or family room, and four bedrooms. Outbuildings include a modern garage and stable block, and the garden, a railed paddock and two fields total about three-and-a-half acres. The price is £125,000 and the agents are Weller Eggar, of Cranleigh, Surrey.

Toppesfield Mill House, at Hadleigh, Suffolk, was a mill house for a nearby water mill, now demolished. The house is probably about 150 years old and is built of brick with a slate roof. Although looking over fields at the rear, it is only a short distance from the centre of the town. Accommodation includes two reception rooms, a good-sized cellar with access from the entrance hall, suitable for use as a games room, and four large bedrooms. Various outbuildings are grouped around a courtyard and the garden runs to about a quarter-of-an-acre. The price is £53,000 and the agents are Abbotts, of Ipswich.

A country house in the local style is Southfield, at Egerton, near Ashford, Kent. It is believed to date from the seventeenth century, but to have been refaced in the Georgian style later in the eighteenth.

The walls are mainly brick on a ragstone base with some tiling, and the house has a grade two listing. Accommodation includes four reception rooms, a conservatory, a main bedroom, bathroom and dressing room suite, plus another four bedrooms and bathroom. Outbuildings include an extensive barn complex within its own walled enclosure, which provides garaging, a workshop and a large first-floor room. The whole property covers about two acres and is for sale at about £110,000 through Braxtons, of Tunbridge Wells.

Gerald Ely



Residential property

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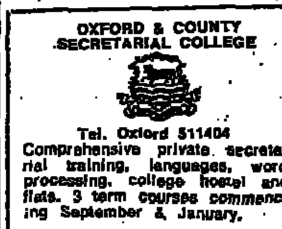
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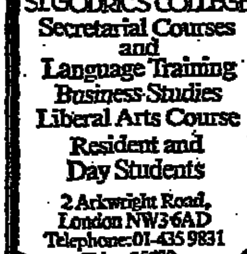
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Appointments Vacant



TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS EXECUTIVE

Times Newspapers Limited requires an Industrial Relations Executive.

The successful applicant will have had considerable experience in industrial relations, ideally in the newspaper industry. A knowledge of computerized systems would be useful but not essential.

It is likely that this appointment will interest applicants earning in excess of £12,500 per annum. The company offers six weeks holiday, pension and life insurance schemes and BUPA membership.

Please write giving full personal and career details, which will be treated with the strictest confidence, to:

Mr Bill O'Neill, Joint General Manager, Times Newspapers Limited, P.O. Box 7, New Printing House Square, London WC1X 8EZ

Closing date for applications March 5th, 1981.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

GENERAL VACANCIES

SUCCESS & ACHIEVEMENT!
A Sales career with us leads to both

We are a national company with an outstanding record of success in its field. Now, we are training men and women aged 22+ from all backgrounds and walks of life as Sales Executives and Managers to help build our City operation based in Chancery Lane. Some of our existing staff have exceeded £15,000 p.a. after a comparatively short time with the company. But really, it all depends on you and the amount of effort you wish to put in.

PHONE PETER BROAD ON 01-242 3811/5524

FOURTEEN MONTHS AGO

I had poor prospects and didn't enjoy my job; now I've a 2 bed. house, my wife drives a BMW. I earn a high 5-figure income. If you would like to share my success, are aged 22-35, phone

TERRY HISCOCK now on 01-637 7587

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

COMMERCE TUTOR

Required immediately. Tutor specially qualified to coach Commerce and Political Science "O" Levels for 17-year-old boy, resident overseas, for next January exam. Must have clean driving licence. Accommodation and own car provided. Salary negotiable. For further details (Agencies or private enquiries) Tel.: 01-493 8103 (9-12 a.m.)

TUTOR GOVERNESS

Required immediately for minimum one year. Qualified teacher 28 to 38 years for 9-year-old boy resident overseas. Must have flexible outlook, enjoy travel and have a clean driving licence. Hours 9-5, accommodation and own car provided. Salary negotiable. For further details

(Agencies or Private enquiries)
Tel. 01-493 8103 (9-12 am)

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Brasenose College Oxford

FELLOW AND LECTURER IN LAW

The College proposes to elect an Official Fellow and Lecturer in Law with effect from 1 October, 1981. Further particulars may be obtained from the Principal, to whom applications should be sent by 28 March, 1981.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of Keele

LECTURER

IN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Applications invited for post of Lecturer in Economics. Candidate will be encouraged to develop his/her own speciality. However an interest in Company Finance or the Economics of Management would be helpful. Beginning salary in points one to three £5,505-£6,245 on the full Lecturers' scale to £11,575 per annum. Further particulars and application forms from The Registrar, The University, Keele, Staffs. ST5 5BG, to whom completed forms should be returned by 27 March, 1981.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

CALIFORNIA

Experienced Cook/Housekeeper and Gardener/Handyman required to run household and grounds for young prof. couple. Must like children and animals. Ample accommodation is provided. Drivers preferred. Refs. required. Please apply Mrs. K. Williams, c/o Inn on the Park, Hamilton Place, London, W.1. 01-499 0888 after Feb. 28th.

EXPERIENCED FIRST CLASS CHEF

M/F required for large private motor yacht. Must have experience of cooking at sea. Age 25-40. Permanent position cruising Mediterranean and USA.

TELEPHONE:
MRS PAULINE CLARK
01-486 4477.

AU PAIR BUREAU Piccadilly Ltd. World's largest au pair agency offers best jobs London or abroad at 87 Regent St., W.1. 930 4757.

REQUIRED

YOUNG MAN, 24, efficient, presentable, seeks good position as PA/Houseman to prof. person.—0222 27353, 12-6 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

SOUTHWARK Corporation 11¼% Redeemable Stock 1983/85 Barclays Bank Limited, Registration Department, Radbroke Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 9EU, hereby give notice that in order to prepare the Interest due on 6th April 1981 the balances of the several accounts in the above Stock will be Struck at the close of business on 6th March 1981.

COMPANY NOTICES

THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Wednesday, 4th March, 1981 for the preparation of the half-yearly dividend payable on the FIRST PREFERENCE SHARES for the six months ending 31st March, 1981. The dividend will be paid on 1st April, 1981.

For Transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyds Bank Limited, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, Sussex, not later than 3.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 4th March, 1981.

By Order of the Board,
G. J. OKELL,
Secretary.

Shell Centre,
London SE1 7NA.
20th February, 1981.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

THE TATA HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY CO. LTD.
THE ANDHRA VALLEY POWER SUPPLY CO LTD.
THE TATA POWER CO. LTD.

INVITATION TO BID

EXPANSION OF TROMBAY THERMAL GENERATING STATION 500 MW UNIT

1. On behalf of the Tata Hydro-Electric Power Supply Co. Ltd., The Andhra Valley Power Supply Co. Ltd., The Tata Power Co. Ltd. Bids are invited by Tata Consulting Engineers for design, manufacture, inspection, testing at Works, delivery to Site, supervision of erection and commissioning of the following system/equipment for the 500 MW Unit at Trombay Thermal Generating Station, Trombay, Bombay, India.

(A) LUBRICATING OIL CONDITIONING & TRANSFER SYSTEM FOR TURBINE AND MOTOR DRIVEN BOILER FEED PUMPS—SUPPLY AND SUPERVISION OF ERECTION AND COMMISSIONING—TCE.388-AF/L-545-01
(a) LUBRICATING OIL CONDITIONER
One (1) turbine oil conditioner of capacity 1.4 M3/hr. with accessories.
(b) TRANSFER PUMPS
One (1) No. of clean oil and one (1) dirty oil transfer pump, each of capacity 1.4 M3/hr.
(c) PIPING, VALVES AND SPECIALITIES
Interconnecting piping, valves and specialities for the system.

(B) GAS CONTAINERS AND ACCESSORIES—SUPPLY ONLY—TCE.388-AF/L-615-06
(a) One hundred and forty eight (148) hydrogen gas cylinders of water capacity 45 litres with accessories.
(b) One hundred and sixteen (116) carbon-dioxide gas cylinders of water capacity 37.5 litres with accessories.
(c) Thirty-six (36) nitrogen gas cylinders of water capacity 45 litres with accessories.

(C) CATHODIC PROTECTION SYSTEM—SUPPLY AND SUPERVISION OF ERECTION & COMMISSIONING—TCE.388-CF/L-816-01
Impressed current and sacrificial anode cathodic protection system for travelling water screen of sea water intake system, internal surfaces of circulating sea water pipeline and condenser water box, external surfaces of underground metallic service carriers.

(D) AUXILIARY POWER AND CONTROL CABLES—SUPPLY ONLY—TCE.388-BF/L-544-01
Sub-Item 1
600 Volt grade, 0.5/0.8 sq. mm. nominal area, stranded copper conductor, multicore, insulated with approved flame retardant material with twisted pairs/triplets of cores provided with overall shielding and/or individual pair/triplet shielding, steel armoured, overall jacketed with approved flame retardant material instrumentation service cables.
Sub-Item 2
600 Volt grade, 0.5/0.8 sq. mm. nominal area, stranded copper conductor, multicore, insulated with approved fire resistant material, with twisted pairs, triplets of cores provided with overall and/or individual pair/triplet shielding, steel armoured, overall jacketed with approved fire resistant material instrumentation service cables.
The material of insulation and jacket for the above cables shall be such that no corrosive gases are generated.
Sub-Item 3
Lot of construction tools and accessories.

(E) ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENTS AND SAMPLING SYSTEM—SUPPLY—TCE.388-AF/L-580-04
Conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, silica, combustible, CO2, SO2, NOX, particulate, smoke density and oil in water measurements complete with sampling cubicles, sample extractors, relief valves, sample coolers, flow gauges, temperature indicators, recorder shall be supplied.

2. Bidders may purchase any or all of the Documents "A" through "E". The BIDDERS shall quote for sub-items under "A" & "B". However, the Bidder may offer any or all sub-items under "D". Evaluation will be done separately for each item A, B, C, E and Sub-item 1, 2 and 3 under "D".

3.

Sl. no	Specification no.	Delivery period in weeks from the date of letter of intent	Date from which bid documents will be available for sale	Last date for bid submission	Cost of bid document
A.	TCE.388-AF/L-545-01	34	2.3.1981	2.5.1981	Rs.250/-or US$ 30/-
B.	TCE.388-AF/L-615-06	50	2.3.1981	5.5.1981	Rs.250/-or US$ 30/-
C.	TCE.388-CF/L-816-01	24 to 34	9.3.1981	11.5.1981	Rs.250/-or US$ 30/-
D.	TCE.388-BF/L-544-01	15 to 25	6.3.1981	24.4.1981	Rs.250/-or US$ 30/-
E.	TCE.388-AF/L-580-04	40	13.3.1981	14.5.1981	Rs.250/-or US$ 30/-

4. As this project is being assisted with a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), Bidding is open to manufacturers from member countries of IBRD and Switzerland or such manufacturer's authorised agents. The procurement of equipment/services under these specifications will be covered by the IBRD loan.

5. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

ITEM "A"
The Bidders must have supplied two (2) such equipment of 1.4 M3/hr. capacity or higher, for lubricating oil conditioner and transfer pumps which are in continuous trouble-free use for at least three (3) years.

ITEM "B"
The Bidders must have manufactured and/or supplied gas containers and accessories for at least a period of three (3) years.

ITEM "C"
The Bidders must have designed, manufactured and supplied Cathodic Protection System similar or larger to that specified herein and which are in successful commercial operation in at least two (2) thermal power stations comprising 200 MW or larger units for at least three (3) years.

ITEM "D"
The Bidders who have designed, manufactured, tested and supplied minimum two (2) similar types of cables/equipment in same or higher lengths/quantities as specified and which are in successful commercial operation for at least three (3) years in a similar large installation.

ITEM "E"
The Bidder must have manufactured and supplied similar equipment which are in continuous trouble-free operation for at least three (3) years.

Only those Bidders who qualify for the above requirements, are eligible to participate for the respective equipment.

6. Bidders will be required to furnish a Bid Guarantee of five per cent (5%) of Bid Price in the form of an irrevocable Bank Guarantee or Bond. The successful Bidders will be required to furnish a Contract Performance Bank Guarantee or Performance Bond for ten per cent (10%) of the Contract Price.

7. Bid Documents will be available at the office of Tata Consulting Engineers, Tata Limited and Tata Incorporated at the addresses given below from the dates indicated in paragraph 3 above. The payment will be accepted only by crossed demand draft or certified cheque drawn in favour of Tata Sons Ltd., a/c Tata Consulting Engineers for the purchase of Bid Documents and this payment is non-refundable. Bid Documents will not be sent by post.

8. Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope as outlined in the "Instructions to Bidders". The last date for receipt of Bids is as indicated in paragraph 3 above. Bids will be received up to 12.00 hrs. (IST), only at the office of Tata Consulting Engineers, Bombay, India and opened the same day at 14.00 hrs. (IST). No extension of the due date shall be granted. Incomplete Bids are liable for rejection. Bids shall be kept valid for a period of six (6) months from the date of opening.

9. Supply, supervision of erection and commissioning prices for "A" shall be quoted on firm price basis. The supply price for "B" shall be also quoted on firm price basis. All prices quoted for Item-C and sub items 1, 2 and 3 under Item "D" shall be on firm price basis.

TATA CONSULTING ENGINEERS.
TATA PRESS BUILDING
414 VEER SAVARKAR MARG,
PRABHADEVI
BOMBAY 400 025
INDIA
TELEPHONE: 432610
TELEX NO.: 011-4524
CABLE: TATCONSEN, BOMBAY

TATA INCORPORATED
415 PARK AVENUE,
NEW YORK, NY 10022
USA
TELEPHONE: (212) 751-5610
TELEX NO.: ITT-424526
CABLE: TATAINC, NEW YORK

TATA LIMITED,
18 GROSVENOR PLACE:
LONDON SW1X 7HS U K
TELEPHONE: 01-235 8281
TELEX NO.: 21501
CABLE: TATALD, LONDON

هكذا من الأصل

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

SECRETARIAL

WANTED

Someone with a strong back, a good front and no side.

Covent Garden Advertising Agency needs Secretary/Receptionist who works hard, looks attractive, and has a natural friendly personality.

Secretarial skills including shorthand plus a talent for welcoming clients, using the phone and in the flesh are all important.

Salary up to £5,000 depending on age and experience.

Ring Debbie on 836 3111.

ADMIN SECRETARY £5,800 + BENEFITS

Located in beautiful offices of International Co. in St. Johns Wood. Candidate aged 35+ with initiative, good secretarial skills and ability to run office in boss's frequent absence.

Susan Hamilton Personnel Ltd
35 St George St., W1. 01-499 5406

ARE YOU AN ORGANISED SECRETARY?

If so, we need you to help two busy female exhibition organisers in a hectic but friendly office. Ability to muck-in, work under pressure and on own initiative essential. £4,500. Ring: Caroline Prescot or Yvonne West.

01-637 8575

EXECUTIVE SUITE, S.W.1

need a senior secretary, aged 30+, with fluent French to completely organize two senior executives. Applicants should be at least "A" level standard with excellent secretarial skills, confidence, assertiveness and good grooming are essential. Salary £6,500+. Call now for appointment. *Mrs. Helen Miller on 434 1855,* ALFRED MARKS STAFF CONSULTANTS 105 OXFORD STREET, N.1

PA IN PERSONNEL £5,500 +

A super opportunity for someone really out of the ordinary! As PA to the Personnel Director you'll be involved in all aspects of this computer company. Someone with a good admin. background plus a really positive and almost flamboyant personality would love this chance. So if you have good secretarial skills phone Geraldine Quinn on 231 5073. DRAKE PERSONNEL (CONSULTANTS)

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY — We have been approached by one of our W.1. Clients to seek a confident, well educated secretary, 23-30 yrs. with English and French shorthand, as well as very good German. This special person will have an excellent c.v. showing practical use of these languages and will currently be earning not less than £6,500. For further details ring *408 0444 Berkeley Appointments* Rec Cons.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY — We have been approached by one of our W.1. Clients to seek a confident, well educated secretary, 23-30 yrs. with English and French shorthand, as well as very good German. This special person will have an excellent c.v. showing practical use of these languages and will currently be earning not less than £6,500. For further details ring 408 0444. Berkeley Appointments Rec. Cons.

PARIS WITH PLEASURE. P.A./Sec. required for young, well established American Company. *Plenty of scope for initiative.* Help given with accommodation. Knowledge of French helpful. Starting salary Fr 6,000 per month negotiable. Contact Annie Pallister Agency Ltd., 01-589 9225.

EXCITING PROSPECTS for Young Person to work in Mayfair Entrepreneur's office. Good secretarial skills—enjoy people and hard work. Age 19+. Salary £5,500 + neg. Contact Annie Pallister Agency Ltd, 01-589 9225.

PARTICIPATE in the fast-moving atmosphere of City Branch of prestigious Estate Agents as PA/Sec. 20-25ish, to two young partners. You need really good formal skills & adaptable personality. You will get out and about from time to time: £6,000 p.a. neg. 4 weeks' hols. Joyce Guiness Staff Bureau. 589 8807/0010.

COLLEGE LEAVER seeking a stimulating job, with prospects in a "people" environment offered a good start with International W.1 Estate Agents. Some experience preferred. Good shorthand/typing essential. £4,500 p.a. *Joyce Guiness Staff Bureau.* 589 8807/0010.

SEC./P.A.—Legal, show biz/music clients. £6,500 + bonus. W.1. Fitzroy Rec. Cons. 434 1004.

POSITION, W.1 requires experienced secretary under 30. Highest rates. 01-935 7626.

SEC. P.A. £6,500. London Bridge. Young successful Sales Director of top public company seeks right hand with excellent secretarial skills. Are you 28 to 40? Can you liaise with people at all levels and remain flexible? If so, one of London's most interesting jobs could be yours. Phone Lucy Marks Personnel, 230 5051 (Staff Consultants).

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL seek secretary. See Creme de la Creme.

DIALLING any one of the following telephone numbers will put you in touch with the staff agency where the standards match your own.—720 0646 (E.C.2), 734 2763 (W.1), 836 2875 (W.C.2), 937 6425 (W.8). Centacom Staff Recruitment Consultants.

GERMAN mother tongue.—American company currently expanding into Europe seeks Secretary/P.A. This is a new appointment for someone with good organisational and secretarial skills (shorthand) who has a sound commercial background. Age 24-30. Salary circa £7,500.—Career Plan Consultants. 734 4284.

SECRETARIAL

PA/SECRETARY, c£6,000. Required for international oil corporation. Full secretarial duties with excellent shorthand and typing speeds. Contact Caroline Wise, 01-628 8244. Emp. Ags.

P.A. TO CHAIRMAN of Commodity Brokers E.C.3 area. Ideal age 30+. £5,750. Ring Cathy Liddle, C.P. Executive Appointments (Agy.), 437 9411.

PUBLISHER needs enthusiastic secretary for busy foreign rights department. Salary by negotiation. Please tel. Priscilla Barlow at André Deutsch 580 2746.

SECRETARY/P.A. for very busy Ad Agency Directors in Russell Square. Working on interesting group of accounts with a small totally involved team. Salary open, to negotiation. Holiday bonus paid, and profit sharing — Write or phone Mrs Knights, G.P.P. Ltd., 55 Russell Square, WC1. 01-637 2551.

SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS and Designers. Permanent temporary positions. AMSA Specialist Agency. 01-734 0532.

CONFERENCE SEC.—£5,000 neg. plus bonus, audio, Victoria. Ring Fitzroy Rec Cons. 434 1001.

IN AN INTERNATIONAL W.1 CO. you could be the indispensable P.A./Sec. 25ish to a Senior Executive who will appreciate initiative, confidence and savoir faire. Your formal skills should be really good. £6,000 p.a. Short shop with concessions. Joyce Guiness Staff Bureau, 589 8807/0010.

PA/SEC. 30s. Invited to join own talent and experience with expertise of Senior Director of well known City group. A challenge where top formal skills, organising ability and general PA qualities will be appreciated. £6,500 p.a. neg. to start. Mortgage facilities. Joyce Guiness Staff Bureau. 589 8807/0010.

SECRETARIAL

GERMAN/ENGLISH.—Exp. P.A., 28/40, bilingual sh., nr. Kew £6,000.—Language Staff Agy., 486 8921.

TEMPTING TIMES

£3.50 p.h.

We don't mind if you're young as long as you're good! Crone Corkill's temporary secretaries have speeds of 100/60, and a reputation for being quick on the up-take and hard-working. West End and City assignments:

437 1126 (West End) 628 4835 (City)

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

NORMA SKEMP

Are interested in hearing from experienced secretaries (s/h, audio and copy typists) to join their friendly team of professional temporaries. Your skills (45 & 90 min.) and flexibility will be well rewarded. Please telephone Sue Girling 01-222 5091

NORMA SKEMP PERSONNEL SERVICES LTD., 14 BROADWAY, S.W.1.

SECRETARY/WORD PROCESSOR/Telex Op. wanted for 6-8 months in small Mayfair consultancy as stand-in for present Sec. on maternity leave. Involvement and responsibility offered in return for sound skills, intelligence, and willingness to work hard. Contact: Jackie Hill-Wilson. 404 5073/5059 immediately. The Work Programm eRec. Cons.

BOND ST. BUREAU are recruiting quality secretaries & copy typists for future assignments with West End clients. Please ring 629 3692 (staff consultants).

NON-SECRETARIAL

LIVE WIRE RECEPTIONIST, £5,000

Magazine group need well-presented receptionist to keep everyone in order, cope with the comings and goings and have accurate typing, 40 wpm. to look after the magazine subscriptions plus 4 x 18 switchboard. Covent Garden Bureau, 53 Fleet Street, EC4. 01-353 7696.

PRESTIGIOUS SPECIALIST

recruitment consultancy req. well-groomed and well-educated receptionist with telephone and audio typing duties. An unusual opening for a pleasant, flexible person, who could be up to 40. Around £4,000 p.a. plus fringe benefits.

STELLA FISHER BUREAU
(Recruitment Consultants)
110 Strand, London, W.C.2
01-836 6644

LIVE IN ST JOHN'S WOOD?

International company requires a bright young recep./teleph. with telex experience for a *friendly team working in very nicely located offices.* £4,300 + fringe benefits.

Susan Hamilton Personnel Ltd., 35 St George St., W1. 01-499 5406.

FULHAM based publishing company offers worthwhile and rewarding work on various projects. Age immaterial. Experience not *essential but pleasant confident* telephone manner necessary. Good remuneration. Please telephone 01-381 1597.

FOOD PHOTOGRAPHER requires girl to run studio. Previous studio experience essential. Salary negotiable. Contact: Sue on 731 2226.

STEPPING STONES

COLLEGE LEAVER OPPORTUNITY

Exceptional Secretarial College leaver wanted for the office of Deputy Chairman of a leading international company near Piccadilly Circus. The successful candidate must have speeds of 120/50. A levels and good spelling. Salary £4,500 to £5,000.

Ring 437 1126
CRONE CORKILL
Recruitment Consultants

YOUNG SECRETARY, aged 17-20. This is an exciting opportunity for a young, newly-qualified secretary to put his/her skills into practice, working for a small firm of Lloyd's Underwriters in EC3. You must have speeds of 100/45 and be ready to turn a hand to a wide range of secretarial duties. Training on a word processor will be given. Salary £4,500. Ring 628 4835 Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants.

PART-TIME VACANCIES

EXPERIENCED Shorthand Secretary for charity. Varied work on new adoption project. Afternoons only 15 hours a week. £2.75 per hour.—01-407 9763.

PIANO TEACHER interested in tutoring children wanted for 3 girls (5, 8, 14) at home in Holland Park. Monday evenings or Wednesday afternoons.—Tel. 01-602 5811.

A DAY away from the housework—earning a few pennies instead. Using your secretarial skills and organizing flair, you will enjoy working (Ken High Street) for this senior titled chairman involved in various concerns.—Further details from Bligh Appointments on 01-493 4372.

TEMPTING TIMES

NEW HORIZONS are always interested to hear from experienced secretaries with compatible skills to join their team of professional Temporary Staff. 01-584 4223.

Property
also on page 29

LONDON FLATS

NAPIER COURT, Hurlingham, S.W.6. Delightful 6th floor flat overlooking Hurlingham Club and river. Large recep. with good balcony, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1 cloaks, well equipped kit. For sale with carpets and curtains. 96 year lease £76,000 for quick sale. Boyd & Boyd, 584 8843.

CHELSEA, Oakley Street. Furnished flat, 2 double bedrooms, recep., k & b, C.H., c.h.w. Lease 10 years. Ground rent £112 p.a. This flat must be sold. Any reasonable offers considered. Clayton Bennett Heycock, 584 6863.

CITY BORDER, E.1. Newly modernized flat. Gas C.H., fitted kit., 2 rms., k & b. 125 yr. lease. £26,500. FRANK HARRIS & CO. 836 6556.

CHELSEA—Flat in modern and pleasant block, 5th floor, south facing, spacious reception, 1 double bedroom, small balcony, fitted kitchen and bathroom, porter, lift, entryphone, C.H.W., and in good decorative order. 72 years lease, £56,000. Tel: 352 9011 (mornings, eves & weekends).

CLAPHAM COMMON.—With open views. Ground floor flat in prestige block, minutes tube. Hall, large recept., custom kit with appliances, 2 beds., luxury bath., good storage, fitted carpets, c.h., c.h.w., excellent services. Long lease £37,500. Woodcocks. 01-223 2920.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

WOULD any lady like to share with another (50s), ownership/occupation spacious home (Surrey), near shops, buses, trains. No smoking, drinking, pets. Full discussion first. £20,000. Box No. 2780 F, The Times.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Readers are strongly advised to seek legal advice before parting with any money or signing any agreement to acquire land or property overseas.

DUPLEX
FOR SALE
COTE D'AZUR

LUXURY building in the most beautiful garden of CANNES with pool, tennis, golf practice, etc. 2 living rooms, 3 main bedrooms + office, spare room, 3 baths, 2 kitchens. Superb decoration. Foreign company sells at very reasonable price for quick completion.

Michael Bret, Manager
STERLING ESTATES
18 Rue Notre Dame
06400 Cannes.
Tel. (93) 39 39 00-01
Telex 461023 F

PROPERTY UNDER £35,000

HISTORICALLY INTERESTING

Completely renovated listed 18th C. period cottage in pretty Cambridgeshire village (1½ hours London). 1 bedroom, fully fitted kitchen diner, lounge with inglenook fireplace beams, bathroom. Large garden. £28,000.

Swavesey 31262, after 6 pm

MOTOR CARS

E TYPE JAGUAR
V12 2+2 Red

Immaculate condition, sun roof, tinted windows, radio, owner must reluctantly sell. £6,000 o.n.o. Tel: West Harptree (076 122) 466 (evenings or weekend).

AUDI AVANT CD5E AUTOMATIC

T Reg. (2 years old). Man. Dir's car. Light green/green velour int. Electric sun roof/windows, tinted glass, stereo radio/cassette. Regularly serviced. 29,000 miles. £5,000 o.n.o.

Phone 01-405 4137 (office hours).

1979 RANGE ROVER ESTATE

Gold with matching interior, in excellent overall condition, 18,000 miles only. Radio/cassette. £7,000 for quick sale. No dealers, please.

Tel. 926 1946

SITUATIONS WANTED

HOTEL FOR LADIES.—200 single rooms, partial board, £35 p.w. All amenities. Apply: 171 New Kent Road, London, S.E.1. 01-703 4175.

ISLE OF WIGHT, time ownership. See Country Property.

PERSONABLE published novelist seeks freelance work.—Box No. 2856 F, The Times.

YOUTHFUL qualified navigator and engineer seeks charter or delivery contracts.—0654 723448 after 6 pm.

FRENCH GIRL, 21, typist, knowledge of English, seeks job as *receptionist,* hotel, etc. From 15th June. Or au pair.—Khefif, Lancome, 41120 Herbault, France.

FLAT SHARING

FLATMATES.—313 Brompton Rd. Selective sharing. 589 5491.

FLATSHARE, 213 Piccadilly. 734 0318. Professional people sharing.

SHARE-A-FLAT (est. 1958) for professionals, 175 Piccadilly. 493 1265.

CLAPHAM.—Own room in family house for professional, aged 20-30. £150 p.c.m. incl.—Tel. 622 0953 from 4 p.m.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE. Large beautiful flat overlooking park. Lady 33+. Own sunny room, bath, porterage, c.h. £45 p.w. 01-589 8459.

10 MINS WHITEHALL.—Professional gentleman, for own room + T.V. & bath, in comfortable house. £30 p.w. 735 0089 (eves).

LITTLE VENICE.—Single bedsit. in lux. flat. Share k. & b. Refs. £30 p.w.—Tel. 289 7954 after

YOUNG LADY, 25-35 to share 3-bed flat with 3 other girls. 1 minute from Maida Vale tube. £30 p.w. 6 mth let. Contact Miss Makepeace, 499 9000 x 2308 day, 286 2206 eves. Avail. March 2.

CHELSEA/FULHAM.—Own bedroom and share with 1 other, large luxury house. Beautifully furnished. £250 p.m. all inclusive.—633 6252 day, 736 8270 night.

FULHAM.—2nd prof. person 30ish, non-smoker, share lux. flat. Own room. £35 p.w. inc. 486 4161 day, 385 7923 eves.

TWO GRADUATE GIRLS.—25+ share beautiful house SW17. Own rooms. £25 and £30 p.w. exc. 946 0063 (eves).

AT FLATLAND. Central flatshares available. 828 0636.

SECLUDED & CENTRAL.—Fully furnished house with roof garden, affording superb views. C.H., washing machine, deep freeze and col TV. 3rd person required. £40 p.w. 352 0973.

BELGRAVIA. Luxurious large house o/r. £36 p.w. 730 5984.

2ND friendly person for W1 flat. 2 mins Baker St. Own room. £40 p.w. 487 4758.

LUXURY SHARE, Putney, 2 rooms avail. £90-£100 p.c.m. Prof. person. 723 8392 or 788 2753.

S.W.7, Male, own room in large flat. £107 p.c.m. excl. 370 2501 (after 6).

NR. CAMDEN SQUARE, N.W.1.—2 rooms, 1 v. small, k. & b. £25 p.w. + 1 evening's baby-sitting p.w.—607 1064.

W.14.—Girl share luxury flat, own room. £25 p.w. inc.—Tel. 603 9913.

PUTNEY.—Bedsitting Room in large family house. £28 p.w. inc. breakfast.—789 1335.

WIMBLEDON, nr. Southfields Tube. —Double Room in super new flat. £40 p.w.—789 2015 or 375 6898.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD.—Pleasant own room. C.H. £30 p.w. incl.—286 7373.

MIXED GRADUATE HOUSEHOLD in Putney seeks male sharer. Own room. C.H., £114 p.c.m. exc.—580 6597 (day)/870 3425 (eves.).

N.22.—Own room. Share luxury flat. £30 p.w. exc.—638 9411 (day).

MAIDA VALE.—Non-smoker, luxury flat. £100 p.c.m.—286 2060.

KEN. CHURCH ST.—4th prof. person wanted to share flat. Own room. 25+. £110 p.c.m. 581 3736 or 937 0445 eves.

S.W.7.—Girl to share mixed flat. Own room. £130 p.c.m. 584 0203 eves.

LITTLE VENICE, W.2.—Own large room for girl. 25+. £25 p.w. inclusive heating, etc. Tel: 262 7848.

BAKER ST. Comfortable bedsit, professional person, use k. & b. Mon.-Fri. 935 5024.

PIED A TERRE, St. Johns Wood. Mon.-Fri. Only £30 p.w. 624 8726.

S.W.4. 3rd person, luxury maisonette, non-smoker, £28 p.w. 622 2450.

N.W.5. Prof. girl, own room, shared flat. £135 p.c.m. 267 3844 after 5.

MON.-FRI. Bedsit & breakfast, Chelsea. £24 p.w. 352 2775.

W.11. Girl to share flat, own room. £30 p.w. inc. & deposit. Phone Jonathan 01-961 2919, 10-6 weekdays, 11-4 Sats.

S.W.4. 2 people to share room in mais., £25 p.w. ea. excl. £125 deposit. 235 0591 x 29 between 9.0 and 5.0.

RENTALS

ON THE RIVER at Teddington. Super flat with river views. Very well decorated and furnished with 2 bedrooms, en suite shower room and sep. bath and w.c. Well fitted kitchen, lift, porter, gas C.H., gge., close station. Long let £110 pw. Tel. J.W. Ltd. 940 2382.

WIMBLEDON.—Large Edwardian House, close shops and stn., with 5 bedrooms, 2 recept., superbly fitted kitchen/breakfast room, well furnished and decorated. Attractive rear garden. Avail 1/2 yrs. £225 p.w. Tel. J.W. Ltd. 949 2482.

DULWICH.—Very smart maisonette on 1st and 2nd floors private road close station—Victoria 12 mins. 3 beds., 2 bath, gas c.h., well furnished. Suit 3 sharing. £85 p.w. J.W. Ltd. 940 2482.

KENSINGTON SQ., W.8.—S/C furnished flat, 2 rooms, k. & b. (suit 2), £68 p.w. 01-937 3214.

W.1.—A very spacious attractive 4th floor flat with 2 double beds, recep., kit. & bath. Short let. Allen Bates & Co. 499 1665.

SOUTHBANK, S.E.1.—A lovely 10th floor flat, in modern block. Recep., k/b., dble. bed, garage, unfs. £100 p.w. neg. Keith Cardale Groves 01-629 6604 Ext. 17.

W.14.—Ground flr. furnished flat. Double bed., large living room, kitchen diner, bathroom, parking. Mon.-Fri. Let £179 p.c.m. Tel. 01-497 347.

KENSINGTON HIGH ST.—Pretty newly decorated mews flat £100 p.w. Tel. 01-937 5660 or 01-607 210.

S.W.1. PIMLICO.—Charming flat with own entrance. Large recept., 1 dble. bed., Bath & kitchen, C.H., C.H.W. £75 p.w. o.n.o. 871 0178.

SWISS COTTAGE.—Newly dec. & furn. flat with gdn. 2 dble. beds., 2 recepts., k. & b. C.H. incl. £160 p.w. Hunters 837 1365.

HIGHGATE.—Modern 3 bedroom Townhouse, close to Hampstead Heath. Gas C.H., garden, garage. Available end February for 6 months-1 year. £100 p.w. Tel. 348 1565 Extn. 2225 day or 01-7 5039 eves.

SOUTH MOLTON ST.—S/C 1st fl. furnished flat, 1 bed, 1 bath, kitchen, 1 recep. £125 per week. Reiff Diner & Co. 491 3154.

MAYFAIR.—Luxury Furnished Flat, 1 bed, 1 bath with shower, F/F kitchen, recep. with dining area. £135 per week. Reiff Diner & Co. 491 3154.

PIED-A-TERRE. Furnished self contained basement flat, 1 mile Westminster. 1 room, kitchen, bathroom, telephone. £165 p.c.m. Minimum 6 months. No sharing.—Tel. 733 5012.

HAMPSTEAD (close Heath). Very attractive flat newly decorated. 2 rooms, k & b, 6 mths, £85 pw. 727 0800.

SLOANE SQ.—2 bed flat co. let. £110 p.w. Willetts. 730 3435.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE.—Sunny 4th floor flat, 1 dbl/bed, bath, kit/breakfast room, recpt room, gas C.H., C.H.W., good furnishings. Company let only. Available now 3-6 mths. £70 p.w. Chestertons. 01-589 5211.

HIGHGATE. — Luxury converted flat. Unfurnished or partly. 2 huge recept rooms, 3 dble beds. Utility room, k & b, 2 toilets, own gas C.H., exclusive use of large garden & dble garage. £150 p.w. incl. 602 0362 anytime.

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

RENTALS

55 PARK LANE, W.1

This excellent block opposite Hyde Park has a selection of FURNISHED flats available at rentals from £110 per week to include CH, CHW and 24 hr. porterage.

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01-493 8222 Telex 25341

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01-937 3710 RHP

BEAUFORT STREET, S.W.3.—Spacious 2nd floor flat, 1 dble., 1 sgle. bed., large living room, T.V. room, kitchen with dining room, bathroom. Electric heating. Avail. now to Oct. £150 p.w. Clayton Bennett Heycock, 584 6863.

THE VERY BEST tenants/landlords come to us. If you are letting or wanting a good property in Kensington, Belgravia, Hampstead or similar areas, please call now. Rents £80 p.w. to £600 p.w. for 1 year or more. Birch & Co. 499 8802 (7 lines).

MARBLE ARCH.—Opp. Park. 3 bed., dble. recep., American kit., 1½ bath, flat. Long/short let. Palace Properties, 486 8926.

MARBLE ARCH/BAKER STREET. Luxury serviced flats, 1, 2 & 3 beds., all in mod. blocks, avail. long/short term. Century 21 Estates, 486 6921.

EBURY STREET, SW1.—Furnished flat, charming, newly decorated and furnished to a high standard. 2 double bedrooms, sitting room, 2 bathrooms and roof patio: £150 p.w. 493 2331.

KENSINGTON. — Marvellously spacious flat in superb order. 2 dbl. beds., 1 single, 2 interrecepts., 1 bath/clk., room kit., all machines, gdns.: £300p.w. —Aylesford & Co. 351 2383.

N.W.8.—Mod. 1 bed. flat. 6 months. £85 p.w. Acre. 431 2129.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE seeks quality furnished flat/house up to £350 p.w. (usual fees required). R.I. +B. 637 9900.

BARNES S.W.13. Family house of character. £110 p.w. 876 8388.

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CHOOSE from our economy/luxury/deluxe apartments for short/long term. For bookings & brochures ring HFS. 937 9886.

SLOANE SQUARE.—Luxury flat for 1 or 2 people. £75 p.w. 589 5304.

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UNFURNISHED flat nr. Marble Arch, W.2. 9 yr lease. Approx. £3,000 p.a. incl. service. Fixtures and fittings £9,750.—Tel.: 451 3708.

FURNISHED flats and houses in *Central London area available* now for long or short lets.—Lenfield Ltd., 01-741 1761.

BEDSITS TO PENTHOUSES. All over London. Let us help you! Busy Bees, 01-278 8184.

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WESTBOURNE TERRACE, Off-street parking. Luxury flat, living room, kitchen, bathroom + shower, upstairs open-plan bedroom with dressing room. Everything provided. £100 p.w.—01-385 0419.

REGENT'S PARK, N.W.1.—1 bed., 1 reception, k. & b. Fully furnished. Long let. £95 p.w. Crouch & Lees, 493 5941.

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BAKER STREET.—S/C 1 bedroom garden flat. £70 p.w. Cas & Co. 882 5127.

MAYFAIR. 1 bedroom, 1 recept., bathroom, kitchen, unfurnished, lease £15,000 or offer. Outgoings £42 p.w. Tel.: 629 1011 (evenings).

DRAYCOTT PLACE, S.W.3 remaining 2 bed flats now avail. 1 min. Sloane Sq. £125 p.w. Co. let. Portmans. 581 1477/5871 0377 (24hr.).

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LADY graduate seeks accommodation Guildford area to Sept. '81. To include own bedroom, bathroom, study, cooking facilities, central heating. Telephone an advantage. Parking space. 0604 713210.

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BARNES.—Luxury cottage, newly fitted and furnished. 3 bed., C.H. Gdn. Avail. April. Co let £100 p.w. Owner abroad. Reply Box 2804 F, The Times.

SMITH STREET. — Chelsea. 2 superbly, fully furnished, 1st floor flats, 2 bed., spacious living rooms, luxury bathrooms, cleaner service. Available immediately c/o Embassy, 6-12 mth. let. Rent by negotiation. Contact Miss McFarland, 10-6, 01-589 2701.

COMANBUILD LTD require furnished flats and houses in and around North London for waiting applicants. 01-348 4026.

GASCOIGNES-PEES offer spacious flat overlooking Battersea Park, comprising 3 beds., 2 baths, 2 recepts., kit., all machines. £130 p.w. Avail. now 01-730 8722.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE furnished flat, 4 rooms, k. & b. £150 p.w. No agents. 01-937 0662.

HOUSE TO RENT until mid June in the Billings. 3 beds., 2 baths, large sitting dining room—2 basement rooms suitable for playrooms—kitchen with dishwasher, washing machine & dryer. Delightfully furnished pretty patio garden. £125 p.w. Ring Homeguide 235 6135.

TEDDINGTON.—On private estate *by the river, modern Town house* with 2 recept., 3 bedrooms, all with en suite bathrooms, gge. Gas C.H. Avail. 1 year initially £150 p.w. Tel. J. W. Ltd. 949 2482.

SOUTH KENSINGTON.—Well decorated and furnished 4th floor flat with own lift entrance—2 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 en suite. Split level reception, gas C.H. Close shops and Tube station. Long let. £100 p.w. J.W. Ltd 949 2482.

GLOUCESTER TERRACE, W.2.—Modern 1st flr. flat, 2 beds., 2 baths, recep., & kit. Long let. Plaza Estates 262 5067.

RENTALS

Farley 01-584 6491

KELVEDON RD., FULHAM, SW6. Charming newly modernised and decorated house close to Parson's Green. Double reception room, fully equipped kitchen with breakfast area overlooking garden. 3 bedrooms, study/4th bedroom, 2 bathrooms. Available 1st March for long let at only £135 p.w. neg.

44/46 OLD BROMPTON RD SW7

FRANK SWAIN

Hillgate Village, W.8. S/c 1st & 2nd floor mais. 4 beds., kit., 2 recept., 2 bath. 3 months+. £220 p.w.

W2. Mews house. 2 double bed., 2 recept., 2 bath., kit. Long co. let. £175 p.w.

W.8. Spacious flat. Lift. hsekeeper, 2 double beds., 2 recept., k. & b., shower. 3-12 mnths. £160 p.w.

727 4433

CHELSEA, SW3

Large family house, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cloakroom, spacious double reception, dining room seating eight, fully equipped kitchen, laundry room, study, garden, sunny terrace. Gas C.H., chw. Close Sloane Square. Good quality fixtures/fittings. Will let furnished/unfurnished. Avail. immediately, 1/2 years. £350 p.w.

Superb, sunny 3rd floor flat. Large double reception, dble. bed., fully fitted kit. and bathroom. Gas C.H./chw. Lovely furnishings and decor throughout. Avail. now 6/12 months plus. £115 p.w.

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CHESTERTONS

MAYFAIR, W.1
Fully furnished 2nd floor flat. Large reception room, dble. bedroom, bath., kitchenette. Ideal for businessman. Company let. From 6 months. £140 p.w.

CHARLES STREET, W.1
Immaculate 3rd floor flat. Large reception room, dble. bedroom, kitchen, bathroom. April 1st for 4 weeks. £140 p.w. negotiable.

DEVONSHIRE PLACE, W.1
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EATON TERRACE. Superb mews house in private courtyard. 2 large recept., study, 3 bed. & 3 bath. Artistically furnished. Gas C.H. £300 p.w.

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CAMPDEN HILL ROAD, W.8. Superbly furnished garden flat comprising twin bedded room, double reception, kitchen & bath. Full of character. Available now for long let. £110 p.w. Call Marsh & Parsons, 937 6091.

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GOOD STUDIO FLAT in modern block adjacent to Regents Park and Baker Street. Rental £70 p.w. Co. let. Phillips Kay & Lewis, 839 2245.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE. 2 mins. Harrods. Delightful 4th floor flat (no lift) in peaceful crescent. Large recept. & double bed. K. & B. £100 p.w. 01-937 3710. RHP.

BELGRAVIA. Modern bijou town house, double bedroom, bathroom, reception, modern kitchen, *serviced. £150 p.w.* 235 0906. Agnts.

AMERICAN Executive seeks luxury flat or house up to £350 p.w. Usual fees required.—Phillips Kay & Lewis. 839 2245.

CHELSEA, Knightsbridge, Belgravia. Luxury houses and flats available for long or short lets. Ring for current list. Flatland, 828 5651.

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PHONE MATE the Telecoms business people. 01-431 0266.

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(continued on page 31)

هكذا من الأصل

PERSONAL CHOICE



...mes Baldwin (right) and the Nigerian novelist Chinua ...chebe: a scene from I Heard It Through the Grapevine ...TV, 8.30)

Dick Fontaine's documentary I Heard It Through the Grapevine ...TV, 8.30) is a complete and sobering rejection of the argument ...at the black man's burden in the United States is lighter now ...an it was when the civil rights movement began in the 1960s. ...case rests principally on evidence amassed by the black ...iter *James Baldwin as he moved through the former battlefields* ...the Deep South where protest was quelled by batons and ...llets. It is dramatic stuff, often pitiful to watch, and the ...wsreel flashbacks to civil rights martyrs are used to maximum ...ect. I only wish Mr Fontaine had devised a better visual ...t-motiv for his film than the fragmented chat beteen Mr ...ldwin and his younger and aactivist brother, David. It wastes ...luable time. And *since when* have the stinging words of the ...ler Baldwin needed a sounding board?

Question: how to get extra mileage out of old black-and-white ...C TV films of Malcolm Muggeridge? Answer: position the ...nerable philosopher (now transformed by colour) and his ...oducer in front of an editing machine, roll the films, press the ...use button and get today's Muggeridge to comment on ...sterday's *Muggeridge who, in turn, was commenting on the* ...ggeridge of many days before yesterday. Familiar enough ...gredients, then, in the new eight-part series Muggeridge: ...cient and Modern (BBC 2, 8.05). But producer Jonathan ...dall, a film-maker of exceptionally finely tuned artistic ...sibility, has reconstituted them, and the result is a refreshing ...perience in autobiography.

And so Sons and *Lovers* comes to an end (BBC 2, 9.25), with ...death of Gertrude Morel and with Paul exiled to an emotional ...bo. I think it impossible to over-praise Jonathan Powell's ...duction. It has established the standard against which all ...ure Lawrence adaptations will be measured. It has also ...firmed me in my belief that Eileen Atkins and Tom Bell are ...formers of the first rank. As for Lynn Dearth, who plays ...ra, *she is an actress whose future prospects are exciting to* ...template.

...alcolm Muggeridge (see above) can also be heard on Radio 3 ...ight (10.00). His is just one of the tributes paid to the late ...liam Gerhardie in Piers Plowright's feature about the writer. ...hardie is the subject of a Saturday Review article in this ...urday's issue of The Times. His last book, God's Fifth Column, ...*o be published next month*. . . The Beethoven *No 9* eats up ...st of tonight's concert from the Royal Festival Hall. The ...hestra is the BBC Symphony, under Michael Gielen. . . . The ...senter's voice in tonight's selection of songs with lyrics by Ira ...shwin (Radio 2, 9.00) is Andre Previn's, but the words are ...my Green's whose knowledge of matters lyrical is everywhere ...parent.

...HAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; ...REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 Open University. *It's a matter of opinion*; 7.05 Earth materials; 7.30 Search and rescue. Closedown at 7.55.
9.05 For Schools, Colleges. Technical studies; 9.35 Living underwater; 9.58 Let's Go; 10.12 The Lion Who Wished; 10.30 Animal foods; 11.02 Strength of *materials*.
11.25 You and Me: Lines and Circles.
11.40 For Schools, Colleges: Religious and moral education; 12.05 Kontakte. Closedown at 12.30.
12.45 News; **1.00 Pebble Mill at One**: Today's items include a cookery item presented by some*body well known in another con*text; **1.45 Trumpton.**
2.01 For Schools, Colleges: David and Saul; 2.18 Streams and rivers; *2.40 Read On! Journey On (5).*
3.00 Speak for Yourself: Second showing of the film showing how best to ask the boss for time off from work (r); **3.25** Delia Smith's Cookery Course: Ways with poultry (r); **3.55 Play School**: Kathleen Dean's story The Snow Pig. Also on BBC 2, at 11.00.
4.20 **Touché Turtle**: Cartoon. Roll-a-Ghoster; **4.25 Jackanory**: Ronald Pickup continues his readings of Joan Aiken stories. Today: *Memory*.
4.40 Take Hart: Picture making, with Tony Hart, Morph and the Tin Pots.
5.00 John Craven's Newsround; **5.10 Break in the Sun**: Episode 3. Stepfather is on the trail of runaway Patsy Blight (Nicola Cowper); **5.35 The Perishers**: with *Leonard Rossiter (r).*
5.40 News: With Richard Baker; **5.55 Regional news magazines.** All regions link up at 6.20 for Nationwide which tonight includes the British Rock and Pop Awards. Sue Lawley and Dave Lee Travis are the presenters and we also see Hazel O'Connor, Hot Chocolate *and Madness.*
7.05 Triangle: Serial about a passenger ferry. Surprising news for Sandy (Helena Breck), with *Michael Craig as the captain.*
7.30 Film: **Doctor in the House** (1954). Medical romp about four medical students (Dirk Bogarde, Kenneth More, Donald Sinden, Donald Houston), their girls (Muriel Pavlow, Kay Kendall, Suzanne Cloutier) and their fearsome mentor (James Robertson *Justice*). *Very funny. Director*: Ralph Thomas.
9.00 News: With Jan Leeming; **9.25 Sportsnight**: Highlights from last night's *Magri v Cal fight.* Also husbands compete with wives in showjumping, for the Lancôme Trophy. From the National Equestrian Centre, Stoneleigh.
10.15 Open Secret: A Question of Control. The effect of automation on the airline pilot. Who is really at the controls — the man or the *robot? Peter Williams investi*gates.
10.45 Parkinson. The mid-week edition of the chat show. His guests are A.J.P. Taylor, Julian Pettifer, Rose Murphy and Hollywood actress Kim Novak.
11.45 News headlines. And weather forecast.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: BBC Cymru/Wales 10.30 am-10.50 I Ysgolion. 11.02-11.22 I Ysgolion. 1.45 pm-2.01 Mister Men. 2.18-2.38 I Ysgolion 5.10-5.35 Grange Hill. 5.55-6.20 Wales Today. 7.05-7.35 Heddiw. 7.35-8.05 Antur i'r Andes. 8.05-8.30 Triangle. 8.30-9.00 Cousins Family and Friends. *11.45 News for Wales; Close.* Scotland: 12.40 pm-12.45 Scottish News. 5.55-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 9.25-10.15 Sportscene. 11.45 News for Scotland. Close. Northern Ireland: 3.53pm-3.55 Northern Ireland News. 5.55-6.20 Scene Around Six. 11.45 News and Close. England: 5.55 pm-6.20 Regional magazines. 11.50 Close.

BBC 2

6.40 Open University. Introduction to the *organ*; *7.30 Argument on* television. Closedown at 7.55.
10.20 Gharbar: Magazine programme for Asian women viewers. *Closedown at 10.45.*
11.00 Play School: The same as BBC 1, 3.55 Kathleen Dean's story, The Snow Pig. Closedown at 11.25.
4.50 Open University. Santa Maria del Popolo. 5.15 Electronic design and signals.
5.40 Love's Intrigue: Mack Sennett comedy, with Billy Bevan.*
6.09 Sixteen Up: Advice for young people on their rights and responsibilities at work, and what they should know before starting their first job. Questions are answered about trade unions, sex discrimination and safety regulations.
6.25 The Master Game: Eighth game in the BBC 2 chess tournament. The top seed, Bent Larsen from Denmark, who isn't doing too well, meets the defending *Master Game* champion Lother Schmid from West Germany.
6.55 Open Door: A new series begins. The Friends of the Earth, *with the assistance of the* BBC's Community Programme Unit, are given the chance to set the record straight about their activities. **7.25 News**: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.
7.35 Travellers in Time: Final film in this series about early exploration. The story of the 1933 Everest expedition which got to within one thousand feet of the summit.
8.05 Muggeridge: **Ancient and Modern.** *First in a new series of* eight films about Malcolm Muggeridge's half century of writing and broadcasting, with *extracts* from some of his many TV programmes. Tonight: boyhood in Croydon, the university years and his teaching in India. (See Personal Choice.)
9.00 M*A*S*H: Korean war comedy. *The* medical team get a lesson in the latest surgical techniques from a Japanese doctor, which makes them realize just how *far behind the times they are.*
9.25 Sons and Lovers: The final instalment of Trevor Griffiths's version of the D. H. Lawrence novel. The death of Gertrude Morel (Eileen Atkins). Highly recommended. Repeated on Saturday night. (See Personal Choice.)
10.20 God and the Scientist: Sam Berry, Professor of Genetics at University College, London, is interviewed by Ronald Eyre in the last of this series. One question *considered is: if evolution is a* continuous process, how does religious experience fit in?
10.45 Newsnight: The day's news, with detailed examination of the most important stories. Ends at 11.35.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: Dr Livingstone's travels; **9.50** Curved shapes; **10.10** A Victorian doctor's life; **10.35** Diarists and log-keepers; **11.05** Different sounds;
11.17 Family life in Verona; **11.34** Work in the country.
12.00 Cloppa Castle: Puppet story, The Frog Prince Caper (r); **12.10 pm Rainbow**: The theme is greed. The story: The Goose that Laid the Golden Egg.
12.30 About Britain: Profile of Carlisle, once one of Britain's *most important railway centres (r).*
1.00 News; **1.20 Thames area news**; **1.30 Crown Court**: The jury has to decide in the case of the husband (Shaun Curry) charged with assaulting his wife (Brenda Fricker).
2.00 After Noon Plus. An interview with the American comedy actress Goldie Hawn who has now turned film producer, too.
2.30 Fantasy Island. Silly American series about an island where dreams can sometimes come true.
3.45 Movie Memories: The guest in today's nostalgic film clips programme is Roland Culver. He is interviewed by Roy Hudd. Clips of Cagney and Keaton films are included.
4.15 Watch It! A Dr Snuggles story, with the voice of Peter Ustinov; and, at **4.20 Runaround**: quiz programme with Mike Reid.
4.45 Brendon Chase: Serial about three brothers who live in a forest. Today: Chaos at a birthday picnic. From BB's book.
5.15 Mr and Mrs: matrimonial quiz game; *5.45* **News**; **6.00 Thames news**; **6.25 Help!** Preparations for next Wednesday's Pensioners' Action Day. And an *interview with Jack Jones.*
6.35 Crossroads: The motel serial continues with Glenda Brownlow's father receiving a telling off.
7.00 This is Your Life. *Somebody,* who isn't expecting it, has his/her life story told in public by Eamonn Andrews.
7.30 Coronation Street: The bad feelings at the Rovers Return erupt. Meanwhile, Ken Barlow waits for Deirdre's answer.
8.00 Max Bygraves: Songs of the year in which Stirling Moss won the Monaco Grand Prix and the new dance called The Twist was sweeping the country.
8.30 I Heard It Through the Grapevine: What the black writer James Baldwin discovered about his fellow blacks living in the Deep South of the United States when he moved among them for the first time in many years (see Personal Choice).
10.00 News from ITN. Also, *Thames news headlines.*
10.30 Film: **High Midnight** (1979) Television movie about the outcome of a brutal narcotics squad *raid on a family home in which a* mother and daughter are killed. The father (Mike Connors) sets out to secure justice.
12.15 am Close: *Toni Lothian* reads something written by someone she calls "a wise woman"— the artist Laura Knight.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
7.00, 8.00 News.
7.30, 8.30 Headlines.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Mid-Week.
10.00 News.
10.02 Gardeners' Question Time.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 *Story*: The Same Hole, by Violet Hutchings.
11.00 News.
11.05 Baker's Dozen.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.27 Frank Muir Goes Into . . . Greed.†
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.35 Party Political Broadcast (Liberal).
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: The Trotliners, by Ted Walker.†
3.50 Zoo Talk.
4.00 Choral Evensong.†
4.45 The Trumpet Major (3).
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 My Music.†
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Checkpoint.
7.45 Tuesday Call (repeat).
8.45 File on 4: Britain's Asians and West Indians and their self-defence groups.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 There Were Giants in Those Day (3).
11.00 The Painted Veil (3).
11.15 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News.
12.15 am-12.23 Shipping forecast.

VHF
9.05 am Schools: Advanced Studies—English; Radio Thin King (5); La France aujourd'hui (5); Poetry Corner; Music *Makers*; *Something to Think About.*
10.30 Listen with Mother.
10.45-12.00 Schools: The Music *Box*; *By the People, For the People*: Casebook '81; Quest.
2.00 pm-3.00 Schools: Movement and Drama I; Books, Plays, Poems; Nature.
11.00 Study on 4: Digame! (7).
11.30-12.10 am Open University: The Augustan Revolution; Great Britain 1750-1950.

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Records: Enesco, Fibich.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: A. Scarlatti, L. Mozart, Nielsen (Sym 2).†
9.00 News.
9.05 Week's Composer: Barber.†
10.00 Philharmonia / Rattle: Szymanowski, Chopin (Pno Conc 2 —Crossley), Baird (Sym 3—1st United Kingdom broadcast).†
11.05 Organ: Brahms, Bach, Sokola.†
11.35 RPO etc/Hunt-Sanders: Vaughan Williams, Schurmann (Piers Plowman—1st perf).†
1.00 pm News.
1.05 Piano (N. Walker—live from Broadcasting House): Scriabin, Chopin, Rachmaninov, Liszt.†
2.00 Music Weekly.†
2.50 Quartet (Lindsay): Beethoven (Op 95), Borodin (No 2).†
3.45 Soprano, piano (Manning/Bennett): Maconchy.†
4.00 The Prelude, by Wordsworth (8).
4.25 Violin, piano (Brainin/Crowson): Mozart (K377).
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
7.00 Piano (Rowke): Liszt (Son in B min).†
7.30 Scientifically Speaking.
8.00 BBCSO etc/Gielen (live from Festival Hall): Schoenberg (Survivor from Warsaw), Beethoven (Sym 9).†
9.25 Six Continents.
9.45 Record: Debussy.†
10.00 My Life's the Least of It: portrait of William Gerhardie.
11.00 News.
11.05-11.15 Record: Field.†

VHF
5.55 am-6.55 Open University: Fundamentals of Human Geography; The Designer; Psychosexual *Identity* (1).
11.15 pm-12.35 am Open University: What is Crime?; Instrumentation; Hardy and the Ballads; *Mackenzie at Braehead.*

Radio 2

5.00 am Bob Kilbey.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00 David Hamilton.† 2.00 pm Ed Stewart.† 4.00 Much More Music.† 6.00 Steve Jones.† 8.00 Listen to the Band.† 8.30 Alan Dell.† 9.00 The Songwriters. † 10.00 Tony's. 10.30 Ian Botham. 11.00 Brian Matthew. 2.00 am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.00 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Paul Burnett. 2.30 Dave Lee Travis. 4.30 Peter Powell. 6.20 British Rock and Pop Awards. 7.05 Mailbag. 8.00 Richard Skinner. 10.00 John Peel.† 12.00 Close.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 10.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 pm With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT):—

6.00 am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-four Hours. 7.45 Report on Religion. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Peebles' Choice. 8.30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Play It My Way. 10.15 Divertimento. 10.30 Women in Politics. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 Listening Post. 11.30 Benny Green on Dickens. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 pm Nature Notebook. 12.25 The Farming World. 12.45 Sports Round-up. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-four Hours. 1.30 Little Dorrit. 2.15 Report on Religion. 2.30 Aspects of the Blues. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Embsn. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Book Choice. 5.15 Listening Post. 5.30 Take One. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-four Hours. 9.15 Play It My Way. 9.45 Four Hands in Harmony. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Round-up. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 A House for Mr Biswas. 11.30 Top Twenty. 12.00 World News. 12.09 am News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Listening Post. 12.45 Musical Memories. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Gold Rush. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network U.K. 2.30 Assignment. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 John Peel. *4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.*

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 *medium wave* 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only; med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF, Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

Granada
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 2.00 Live From Two. 2.50-3.45 Family. 5.15-5.45 Welcome Back, Kotter. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.25 This Is Your Right. 6.30-7.00 Crossroads.

Anglia
As Thames except: Starts 9.15 am-9.30 Jobline. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. *3.45-4.15 Entertainers.* 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 12.15 am Big Question.

Yorkshire
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Duet. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes 6.00-6.35 Calendar.

ATV
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Starparade. 5.15-5.45 Survival. 6.00 News. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.35-7.00 ATV Today.

Channel
As Thames except: 12.00-12.30 pm Closedown. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Star Parade. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00-6.35 Channel Report. 10.28 News. 10.34 Film: High Midnight. 12.15 am Epilogue.

Ulster
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 *Lunchtime.* 4.13-4.15 *News.* 5.15 Cartoon. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00-7.00 Good Evening Ulster. 10.30 Quincey. 11.30-11.40 Bedtime.

Tyne Tees
As Thames except Starts 9.20 am Good Word. 9.25-9.30 News. 1.20 pm. News. 1.25-1.30 Where the Jobs Are. 2.45-3.45 Danger UXB. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 Northern Life. 10.30 News. 10.32 Twilight People. 12.00-12.05 am Wholeness.

Southern
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25 Fantasy Island. 3.20-3.45 Survival. 5.15 Betty Boop. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Day by Day. 6.35-7.00 Scene Mid-week. 12.20 am Weather followed by It's a Small World.

Scottish
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Certain Women. 5.15 Pet Subject. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. *6.20 Toye's Talk* Back. 6.30-7.00 Report. 10.30 Encore For The Arts. 11.15 Late Call. 11.20-12.20 am Film: Death Squad (Robert Forster).

HTV
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. *2.00 Houseparty 2.25-3.45 Film: Joe Dakota* (Jock Mahoney). 5.15 Dick Tracy. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Report West. 6.30-7.00 Survival. 10.28-10.30 News.
HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV West except: 12.00-12.10 pm Ffalabalam. 4.15-4.20 Puppy Possum. 4.45-5.15 Siwrnai y Byd 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales.

Border
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Love Boat. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround. 10.30 Baretta. 11.30-11.32 News.

Westward
As Thames except: 12.27 pm-12.30 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Starparade. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00-6.35 Westward Diary. 10.34 Film: High Midnight. 12.15 am-12.20 Faith For Life.

Grampian
As Thames except: Starts 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Baiman. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 10.30 Bart Laid Scheme. 11.30 Dolly. 12.00-12.05 am News.

Entertainments Guide

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March 4 to 21
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CONCERTS

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BBC S.O. BBC SINGERS
... Symphony Chorus. Michael ...en Soloists. Schoenberg: A ...vivor from Warsaw; Beethoven: ...mphony No 9 (Choral).

THEATRES

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CHURCHILL cc 460 6677/5838 Bromley, Kent. 7.45. Sat. 4.30 & 8. Thurs. 2.30.
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in Neil Simon's comedy
BAREFOOT IN THE PARK.
with MARGERY MASON & EWEN SOLON

COMEDY THEATRE S cc 01-930 2578. From 2 March until 23 May only. Eves 7.15 (March 4 at 6.30). Mat. Thurs. 3.00 (note early start). The National Theatre smash-hit production (from The Cottesloe) of
ARTHUR MILLER'S
THE CRUCIBLE
Directed by Bill Bryden

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HATH a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit. Jeremiah 2: 11.

BIRTHS

ALLEN.—On February 16th, at Carlisle, to Caroline and Martin—a son.

BIDD...—On 22nd February, 1981, at St Thomas' Hospital, to Mo and Adrian—a daughter (Esther), sister for Alice.

COTES JAMES.—On February 19th, at Yeovil Hospital, to Mo and Richard—a son (Christopher).

CREED.—On February 20th, to Moira (nee Ayres) and Anthony—a son (Timothy Haine).

HENRIQUES.—On February 23rd to Toni and Richard—a son, Danle Quixano.

MASON.—On February 21st, to Susie and Paul—a son, Benjamin George, brother for Emily (born 22.12.78).

McTURK.—To Posy (nee Chesterton) and Rory—a daughter, Freyl: Kathleen, the brave survivor of triplets born prematurely on Dec. 18, 1980, a sister for Marcus and Matthew.

PARKER.—On 21st February, at Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion, to Julie and Nicholas—a daughter.

RANSOME.—On February 24th, 1981, to Yasmin (nee Virji) and Michael—a daughter (Selina Katherine).

SQUIRES.—On 20th February, at Halifax General Hospital, to Buzz (nee Lawry) and Malcolm—a daughter (Eleanor Mary).

WALTERS.—On 23rd February, at St David's Hospital, Cardiff, to Suzanne and Alun—a daughter.

BIRTHDAYS

IRB 21.—Love & many congratulations. Take it for granted. O.

SHEPHERD.—Happy birthday St George. I love you so. H.F.A.

MARRIAGES

MONTGOMERY : CHAMBERS.—On 19th February 1981 at Danehill, Patrick to Marguerite nee Montgomery, widow of Lt. Col. W. F. H. Chambers.

GOLDEN WEDDING

O'SHEA : MORGAN.—On February 25th 1931, G. W. M. (Mike) to Gwyneth. Love from Kevin, Patrick and Eithne.

DEATHS

BRADBURY.—On Sunday, 22nd February, at home, John Lewis Bradbury, M.A. (Cantab.), aged 80 years, of 3 Oaks Drive, Upton-by-Chester, loved and loving husband of Eileen Marjorie (Molly Bradbury), many years Vice-Principal of Chester College. Funeral on Friday, 27th February, in Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross, at 2.30 p.m. No flowers, donations in lieu, if desired, to Chester College Association Appeal, Cheney Road, Chester.

BRECKNELL.—On February 21st, 1981, suddenly, Susan Elizabeth, of Harpenden, Herts. Beloved wife of Mike and loving mother of Mandy, Rupert and Katie. A Requiem Eucharist, Thursday, 26th Feb., 8 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church, Harpenden. Funeral service on Friday, 27th February, 2 p.m., at St. Nicholas, Harpenden. Donations if desired to The Church of England Children's Society.

BRODIE.—On February 23rd, 1981, peacefully in a nursing home, Olive Marjory, formerly of Box Hill. Funeral service on Friday, February 27th, at Betchworth Church, at 11.00 a.m. All enquiries please to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking.

BROUGHAM.—On February 22nd, peacefully in hospital, the Hon. Anthony Charles, beloved father of Christopher and Adrian. Service at Our Lady of Lourdes, Rothamstead Avenue, Harpenden, on Friday, 27th February at 11.00 a.m., followed by cremation at West Herts Crematorium, Garston, Herts. Flowers to L. C. Weston, 96A Luton Road, Harpenden.

BYLES.—On the 23rd Feb. at The Lodge, Spicer Road, Exeter, Vera, beloved wife of Alfred, mother of Peter, mother-in-law of Joan and grandmother of Simon and Jonathan. Funeral service Exeter Cathedral, Monday, March 2nd, 1.45 p.m.

COGHLAN, CAMILLA MARY BERNADETTE. — On February 23rd, aged 27, peacefully after a long illness at Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford. Beloved wife of Timothy, mother of Alice and Christopher and daughter of Mr Roderick and the Hon. Mrs Faure Walker. Requiem Mass 2.30 p.m. Friday, 27th February, at the Friary, Chilworth, nr Guildford. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Mount Alvernia Hospital.

DUFFUS.—On 23rd February, 1981, peacefully, in a nursing home, Chester Stairs, O.B.E., M.C., of Hollington House, Woolton Hill, Berkshire, within days of his 90th birthday, beloved father of Evelyn and grandfather of Josephine and Sarah. Service at Woolton Hill Church, nr. Newbury, on Friday, February 27th, at 2.15 p.m. prior to private cremation. Family flowers only.

EVANS.—On February 19th, suddenly and peacefully, Enid Constance Evans, of Girton, Cambridge and Evanjobb, Powys, Wales. Formerly of Great Dunmow. Cremation service at Cambridge Crematorium, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, on 2nd March, 1981, at 11.30 a.m. No flowers. Donations if desired to The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund. Memorial Service at Great Dunmow, date to be announced.

GLASS.—Suddenly at Inverness, on 23rd February, 1981, Jerry George Glass, managing director of Precision Relays Ltd., Inverness. Brother of the late Zygrant Glass and much loved uncle of Brian, Nell and Anna. Friends desirous of attending funeral please meet at Glenquhart Road Gate, Tomnahurich Cemetery, Inverness at 2.45 p.m. on Thursday, 26th February.

GLUCK.—On Sunday, February 22nd, 1981, peacefully, at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Felix, adored by family and friends. Funeral Thursday, 26th February, 3 p.m., at Edgwarebury Cemetery, Edgware.

GORDON.—On 21st February, 1981, in hospital, Mrs Colin Gordon (nee Zena Howard) much loved mother of Janice. Memorial Service to be announced. No flowers by request.

HALL, B. FAIRFAX.—On February 23rd, 1981, beloved husband of the late Penelope Hall. Much loved father of Richard and Charles. Cremation private.

DEATHS

HARRISON.—On February 21, 1981, in hospital in Eastbourne, Sussex, Bertram John, aged 87 years, husband of Ann. No flowers or letters please.

HARTLEY.—On February 23rd, David George, aged 38 years, of Mount Hill Farm, Gerrards Cross, after a severe illness borne with great courage. Dearly beloved husband of Sue and loving father of Caroline, George and Laura, and much loved son of George and Sylvia Hartley. Thanksgiving service for David at St James's Church, Gerrards Cross, on Monday, 2nd March at 3.00 p.m., followed by cremation at Slough Crematorium. No flowers. Donations to David Hartley Memorial Fund, National Westminster Bank, High St., Uxbridge.

HUGH-JONES.—On 21st February, 1981, in hospital after a stroke, Dora Arnold (nee Eales), aged 82 years, for 53 years the loving and devoted wife of Edward Maurice Hugh-Jones, of Michaelhouse, Wootton-by-Woodstock, Oxford; for many years Probation Officer for Oxford City and County and during the War Second Officer, W.R.N.S. Requiem Mass at 10.30 am on 26th February at St. Hugh's Church, Woodstock, followed by interment in the churchyard of St. Mary the Virgin, Wootton-by-Woodstock. No flowers, please, but donations to the Restoration Fund, Pluscarden Abbey, Elgin, Moray, Scotland. R.I.P.

HUNT, WILLIAM FIELD.—On 22nd Feb., 1981, aged 80 years, Deputy Circuit Judge, of 63 Ascot Rd., Moseley, Birmingham. Cremation private. A memorial service will be held at St Mary's Church, Moseley, Birmingham on Saturday, March 7th at 12 noon.

HUNT.—On Feb 21st, 1981, at a nursing home in Worthing, Cecil Bertram, aged 95 years, son of the late Reverend O. Hunt, Vicar of Budbrooke, Warwick, formerly Rector of Chozroy, Somerset. Requiem Mass at St. Andrew's Church, Clifton Rd., Worthing, on Monday, 2nd March, at 2.30 p.m. followed by burial at Durrington Cemetery.

LOXTON.—On February 22nd, peacefully, Mrs Daisy Florence Loxton, of 34 Albany Road, Windsor, in her 90th year, after a short illness. Cremation at Slough on February 26th at 4 p.m.

MANN.—On 24th February, peacefully at his home in Coulsdon, Surrey, Adrian Bernard Mann, C.B.E., F.I.C.E., F.I.Mech.E. Dearly loved husband of Mary and father of Michael and Rosemary. Funeral at Croydon Crematorium on Monday, 2nd March, at 4.00 p.m. Family flowers only to W. A. Truelove, 55 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, Surrey.

MATHESON.—On 21st February, peacefully at her home in Court Downs Road, Beckenham, Kent, Joan Patricia, beloved wife of Ronald and a loving mother to Margaret and Peter. Service at St Pauls Church, Brackley Road, Beckenham, on Friday, 27th Feb., at 2.30 p.m., followed by a cremation at Beckenham Crematorium, Elmers End Road, at 3.20 p.m. Enquiries to H. Copeland and Son Ltd., 9 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent (01-650 2395).

McKIE.—On 22nd February suddenly at Guy's Hospital, Robert McKie, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of Town and Country Planning at Queens University, Belfast. Funeral at St. Nicholas Church, Elmdon, Essex, on 2nd of March at 2.30 p.m. Flowers, if desired, to Messrs. Peasgood, Saffron Walden, Essex; or donations to Oxfam or to the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. Memorial services will be held later.

MOORE, DORIS GWEN.—On February 15th, 1981, in hospital after a short illness. Late of 14 Lansdowne Parade, Cheltenham. Cremation took place on 20th February at Cheltenham. Ashes interred at Tewkesbury.

PICK, PROFESSOR JOHN, B.A., M.A., PH.D., Professor Emeritus of English Literature at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A., died suddenly of a heart attack on Friday, 6th February, 1981, whilst on a lecture tour of America.

POWER.—On February 17th, 1981, peacefully in hospital, Mary, aged 84, beloved wife of Cyril, dearest mother of Sheila and Molly and much-loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral, 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 25th, at St. James's Church, Shere.

TAYLOR, Mrs. FLORENCE.—On 22nd February. Will be deeply missed by her friends and colleagues at Times Books. Funeral, Thursday, 26th February.

TREACHER.—On February 21st, suddenly in Southampton, Sheila, S.R.N. After a long illness faced with courage and dignity, aged 56. No flowers, please. Donations to Save the Children Fund. Funeral service March 2nd, 1.15, Southampton Crematorium.

SHIRLEY-QUIRK, PATRICIA.—On Sat, 21st Feb., at home, deeply loved wife of John Shirley-Quirk and mother of Kate and Peter. Funeral 3.30 p.m., Thursday, 26th Feb., at Bisham Church (near Marlow). Flowers, if desired, to G. Smith Ltd., Wooburn Green, Bucks. or donations to Cancer Research.

WARREN.—On 22nd February, suddenly, Leslie William, of 27 Rutherford Rd., Liverpool 18. Loving husband of Stella and dear father of Anne. Former headmaster of Wigan Grammar School and Alsop School, Liverpool. Service and cremation at Springwood Crematorium, Liverpool, on Friday, 27th February, at 2.30 p.m. Family flowers only, please, but donations in lieu, if desired, to the Master, Christ's College, Cambridge.

WATERWORTH.—On 20th February, Michael Anthony Baillie, aged 34, suddenly, in London, beloved son of Peter and Jinks, brother to Paul and Nicholas and dearly loved friend of Robin Josephine. Service Oakley Wood Crematorium, Warwick, Monday, 2nd March, at 12 noon. Flowers to Dawsons, the Funeral Directors, 22 George St., Leamington Spa.

WHATLEY.—On February 22nd, 1981, in hospital, Major Ernest Ralph (retired). Cremation at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow, Essex, Friday 27th Feb., at 11.30.

WILLIAMS.—On February 23rd, 1981, Francis Roger Williams, of Merstham, Surrey, much loved husband of Winifred and father of Susan and Christopher, peacefully at Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford. Funeral service St Katharine Church, Merstham on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 2.15 p.m. No flowers but if so desired donations for Cancer Research may be sent to Stoneman Funeral Services, Doran Court, Redhill.

DEATHS

WICKHAM.—On 22nd February, 1981, Edith Mary, peacefully, at home. Funeral service St. Catherine's Church, Bearwood, Nr. Wokingham, Thursday, 26th February, at 2.30 p.m. Flowers and inquiries to: David Greedy, Crowthorne 3741.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JOIN John Arlott, Basil D'Oliveira and Frank Bough for dinner and informal conversation at The Savoy on Sunday April 12th. Details from 01-491 7323 ext 61.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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MANSBRIDGE nee WARE. FLOSSIE GLADYS MANSBRIDGE nee WARE, widow, late of The Royal Hospital, Weston-Super-Mare, Avon, died at Weston-Super-Mare on 27 March 1980. (Estate about £5,000). The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (B.V.), 12 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6LJ, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

BARLTROP. LILIAN BARLTROP, spinster, late of Redbond Lodge, Chequers Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex, died there on 4th June 1979. (Estate about £7,500).

IQ test/membership details from Mensa (B), FREEPOST, Wolverhampton WV2 1BR. Tel.: 0902 26055.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATE YOUR OWN FUNERAL with Mike and Tony at J. ARTHUR'S CLUB, Kings Rd., Thursday, 5th March. For details telephone Marathons on 01-235 0208.

PERSONAL COLUMNS
ALSO ON PAGE 30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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RAYMOND COUCHMAN. Last known address 4 London Rd., Swanscombe, Kent. Anyone knowing his whereabouts please write Pastore Cesare, Via G Bruno, 48 Prato, Italy.

NORWICH UNION welcomes delegates to the 1981 NUJ Annual Delegates Meeting and looks forward to meeting them at 8.15 on Wednesday evening.

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Malta	Hotel HB	1	7	4, 11, 18 Mar.	£12[illegible]
	Studio apt.	2	7	4, 11, 18 Mar.	£9[illegible]
	Hotel HB	1	14	11 Mar.	£15[illegible]
	Studio apt.	2	14	11 Mar.	£13[illegible]
Rhodes	Hotel HB	3	7	5, 12 Mar.	£13[illegible]
	Hotel HB	3	14	19, 26 Mar.	£17[illegible]
Portugal	Hotel BB	2	7	6, 13 Mar.	£11[illegible]
	1 bedroom apt.	3	7	6, 13 Mar.	£11[illegible]
	Hotel BB	2	14	13, 27 Mar.	£13[illegible]
	1 bedroom apt.	3	14	13, 27 Mar.	£13[illegible]
Gran Canaria	1 bedroom apt.	3	7	21, 28 Mar.	£14[illegible]
	1 bedroom apt.	3	14	21, 28 Mar.	£19[illegible]
Tunisia	Hotel FB	2	7	1 Mar.	£12[illegible]

All prices are guaranteed final and include all airport taxes, surcharges and holiday insurance.

Prices are per person for a party size of two persons. Subject to availability.

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SELVA Ski/Chalet Party	2 wks.	7 Mar	265	Small World 01-240 3235

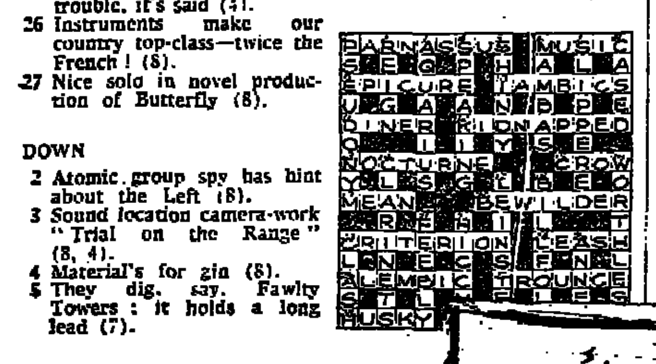
THERE'S SNOW ON OUR SLOPES!

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,459

ACROSS
1 Break up strike with great success (5, 3).
9 If ruined, retire? No, change one's outlook (8).
10 Tot shot pest (4).
11 Inn of Middlemarch? (4-3, 5).
13 Union refers specifically to the Bomb (6).
14 The next one had a date with Orwell (4, 4).
15 Old invader from Bird Point (7).
16 Work quietly in an outhouse when sent to gaol (7).
20 Park where wealthy Scotsman died (8).
22 Withdraw from quarters and give up (6).
23 The Continent may give her a romantic illusion (5, 7).
25 Defence—a bit of eye trouble, it's said (4).
26 Instruments make our country top-class—twice the French! (8).
27 Nice solo in novel production of Butterfly (8).

DOWN
2 Atomic group spy has hint about the Left (8).
3 Sound location camera-work "Trial on the Range" (8, 4).
4 Material's for gin (8).
5 They dig, say. Fawlty Towers: it holds a long lead (7).
6 Cold as the last two letters Cora receives (6).
7 Dandy in the East End, we hear (4).
8 The elder represented the king (8).
12 International meetings arising from Greek competition (7, 5).
15 Dashed into Dutch city to make a speech (8).
17 Guy might have established a Doll's one too? (8).
18 A land of plenty—or loaded with trouble? (8).
19 Anthony entitled to be hostile to present-day poetry (7).
21 No banter in speech (6).
24 Utter defeat for party (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,458





(continued on page

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